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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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The Daily and Weekly Commercial.

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FIRST EDITION

XLIII. CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 18, 1873.

SENATE.

Mr. INGALLS presented a petition from the citizens of Kansas asking the passage of a law allowing soldiers in the late war a bounty and 160 acres of land. Referred.

Mr. ANTHONY, from the Committee on Printing, reported back a bill to provide for the printing of the biennial register or blue book. Passed.

In the course of a discussion on the bill, Mr. SARGENT said he had learned that since the abolition of the franking privilege one hundred thousand dollars had been expended by the Government for scales to weigh the mailable matter, and stated that the cost to the Government now to send documents over the country was greater than before the franking privilege was abolished.

Mr. SHERMAN asserted that he would vote against the printing of every public document unless some means be adopted to distribute them. He had received a notice that there were over two hundred public documents waiting his order, and the question in his mind was how he was to distribute them. He supposed other Senators were in the same difficulty.

Mr. BOUTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, reported back the bill amendatory of an act relating to the enrollment and licensing of certain vessels. Passed.

Mr. HOWE introduced a resolution instructing the Committee on Pensions to inquire into the expediency of placing on the pension roll the names of all honorably discharged soldiers and sailors of the war of 1812, irrespective of the terms of service. Passed.

Mr. WRIGHT asked that the House bill to establish the compensation of Senators, Representatives and Delegates be taken up. The bill was read twice and referred to the Committee on Civil Service and Retrenchment.

The morning hour having expired, the resolution reported by the Committee on Finance was taken up.

Mr. SHERMAN said it seemed to be the desire of the Senate to enlarge upon this debate. He did not propose to engage in it, but hoped the Senators would express their views, as it was the desire of the committee to ascertain as near as possible the wish of the Senate, and know whether there was for the re-imprisonment or contraction of the currency, or a return to specie payment.

Mr. BOUTWELL looked with apprehension upon any plan to return to specie payment by way of contraction. The shock caused by contraction would be detrimental to both the private and public interests of the country. He favored maintaining the volume of currency at the minimum points established by law, and waiting for the development of the resources of the country. He had examined with care all propositions submitted to the Senate. They were principally of two sorts, contemplating either contraction or expansion; but he did not propose now to enter into an argument of the question. He felt it to be his duty to resist an expansion of the currency, as such a plan would postpone the day of return to specie payment. On the other hand, contraction would injure the business interests of the country.

Mr. HOWE thought there was a good, wholesome reason for substituting paper for coin, but that that reason had passed long ago. He thought if the Government added a dollar to the volume of the currency, or, as he might term it, "our broken promises," it would be little less than the perpetration of a public crime. He hoped Congress would not authorize the enlargement of the circulation.

Mr. FERRY, of Michigan, did not believe there was much difference in the Senate on the question whether our currency or gold should be made the equivalent. The only difference was in the method of doing it. It could not be doubted that there was a prostration now in the financial interests of the country, and it was a very grave question whether this prostration should be continued by a "let-alone" policy of legislation. He desired to dispel the illusion that the volume of currency regulated the price of coin, and argued that when we had a larger volume of currency, coin was lower than when we had a smaller value.

Mr. MORTON said the faith of the Government was pledged to redeem our greenbacks in coin. He did not deny that we should steadily keep in view the return to specie payments, but the question was whether this is the proper time to adopt such measures. There was a wrong time to do a right thing, and, in his opinion, this was not the time to return to specie payment. He offered his protest against such language as that used by the Senator from Massachusetts (Sumner), that the currency is dishonored. It had not been practicable at any time since the close of the war to redeem our currency in coin.

Mr. SUMNER—Will the Senator allow me to ask whether, in this interval of time, we have not paid a considerable amount of the national debt—I think a larger amount than the outstanding legal tenders?

Mr. MORTON—We have; but we never had enough gold on hand at one time to authorize us, or make it safe for us to redeem these notes in coin.

Mr. SUMNER—My friend is aware that when we had gold we paid off the debt, instead of paying the running, daily obligations of the Government.

Mr. MORTON replied that had the daily obligations been so paid, the coin would have been taken up, and the treasury bankrupt, in forty-eight hours.

Mr. SUMNER—Was not the original suspension of specie payments, making our paper inconvertible, essentially a war measure to carry on war? and, therefore, should it not have been terminated immediately after the war?

Mr. MORTON—I agree with the Senator, and yet it does not change my course of argument. It was a war measure, and the understanding was, when the notes were issued, that they would be paid when the country was able. The war ceased seven years ago, but the consequences are upon us to-day, and one of them is that we are not practically able to redeem our notes. There is a wild fanaticism about specie payment. I had it once rather bad myself, but experience and lapse of time cured me. He was in favor of a return to specie payment when the condition of the country would permit it. He inquired if this was the time to adopt a definite measure to return to specie payment, while a panic was in existence. The return to specie payment should be in prosperous times. He denied that the panic facilitated matters for a return to specie payment.

Mr. MORRILL, of Vermont, inquired if the gentleman did not recognize the fact, that during this panic there had been a large addition to the circulation by drawing on the forty-four million reserve.

Mr. MORTON replied in the affirmative, and stated that the policy was beneficial to the country. The Suspension of specie payments had generally been the result of a panic, not resumption. He wished it to be understood that the true relief for panics during the last hundred years had not been resumption, nor contraction, and he did not believe they would ever be. He favored a small addition to the volume of currency as the true remedy. The Government did all in its power to reserve the panic at the beginning, and the issue of a part of the forty-four million reserve did much to restore confidence. The very knowledge that the currency was being enlarged, induced the people to put their money out. He believed the panic could be shortened, and every day that it was so lessened would be a great blessing. The English and French governments never let panics run their course, but did all in their power to shorten them. He believed that if the Government had, in the beginning, put out the whole of that forty-four million reserve, the panic would have been stopped immediately. The President and the Secretary of the Treasury, however, anticipated that there would be a falling off in the revenues of the Government, and that money would be needed to carry it on.

At 3 o'clock, the Senate went into Executive session.

At five o'clock the doors were reopened, and the resolution to adjourn over during the holidays was received from the House.

Mr. HAMILTON, of Maryland, moved that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of the resolution.

Mr. THURMAN believed the resolution should be amended so as to provide for an adjournment on next Tuesday.

Mr. SCOTT moved to refer the resolution to the Committee on Civil Service and Retrenchment. Lost by a rising vote—22 yeas, 24 nays.

Mr. WEST moved to adjourn, which was agreed to—yeas 21, nays 18, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. HALE, of New York, rising to a personal explanation, referred to the amendment offered yesterday by Mr. Wilson, of Indiana, directing that fees paid to a Member of Congress as agent or counsel of the United States, while such member, should be deducted from his compensation as a member. He said that this was intended to fix on the records and debates of the House a stigma on him (Hale), a deliberate and planned insult, and as such he accepted it. He proceeded to give the history of his engagement as agent and counsel of the United States in the mixed British and American Commission, saying he notified the Secretary of State, after his election, that under the law he could not continue to act, and that Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing his continued employment as counsel.

Mr. ELDRIDGE asked whether he did not receive, during the time of his professional service, more than he received as a Member of Congress, even at the rate of $6,500.

Mr. HALE characterized the question as simply impertinent and declined to answer. He further said that he had done what was under the authority of Congress, properly and lawfully. He stated that within a very short time after he had made some remarks a day before yesterday, he was kindly warned by a distinguished gentlemen on the floor that a castigation was in store for him and that children must not cry when hard knocks were given. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Butler) did not see fit to prepare the castigation thus to be administered, but he procured it to be administered by reaching his great arm around the gentleman from Wisconsin (Eldridge), and through him procured the gentleman from Indiana (Wilson) to present the amendment.

Mr. BUTLER—Not a word of truth in it.

Mr. WILSON, of Indiana—The gentleman is entirely mistaken. The gentleman from Massachusetts never said one word to me on the subject.

Mr. ELDRIDGE—And I say that every word relating to me in regard to that matter, is untrue.

Mr. HALE—If the gentleman who gave me the information will allow me, I will name him.

Mr. BUTLER—Pardon me; I will give all the information.

Mr. HALE—I will hold the floor until I have finished my remarks. I say that I have the authority of a gentleman on the floor, whom I shall name if he permits me, for saying that the amendment of the gentleman from Indiana (Wilson) came before the House at the suggestion of the gentleman from Wisconsin (Eldridge), and that it came pursuant to a warning which the gentleman from Massachusetts (Butler) had given me. The selection was an eminently appropriate one. The gentleman from Indiana (Wilson) is the special representative of the class of men to whom the salary law of 1873 was due, who by their votes, when forced to a direct and square vote, condemned the proposition, and then by their votes, when they could escape from their responsibility and carry the idea to their constituents that they were opposed to the measure, aided by subterfuge in the passage of the bill. Mr. Hale then referred to the several votes taken at the last session on the salary question, intimating that in some of the votes Mr. Wilson had dodged by refraining from voting. With such a record, he was not surprised that the gentleman from Indiana had been selected as the instrument to make that attack upon him. It was not an uncommon thing to find, even among beasts, those who, when defiled themselves, were anxious to defile those around them. He had seen a cur emerging from a puddle, with its hair draggled with filth, force its way among decent people and rub itself against them, or shake its filth among them. He had seen that experiment tried, and had seen decent people smirched in that way, but he had never known the cur that did it to be anything else than a dirty dog, and he believed that that would inevitably be always the case.

Mr. WILSON, of Indiana, having got unanimous consent, began by saying that the House had just had a very unseemly exhibition of a dirty dog. [Applause and hand-clapping, which the Speaker reproved.] The record which he (Wilson) had made last session on the salary question, he had never shrunk from. He had not gone about the country calling that a salary-grab, nor had he, under any circumstances, conceded that he had done anything which he had not a right to do, and which was not consistent with his integrity and honor. The dodging which he had been accused of by the gentleman from New York, he explained by showing that the votes referred to had been taken while he (Wilson) was in Boston, by order of the House, carrying on the Credit Mobilier investigation. He defended his action yesterday, in offering amendments, on the ground that the gentleman from New York (Mr. Hale) had been running about the House for several days, prescribing clean linen for everybody else, and he did not wish that that gentleman should wear a dirty shirt, he had offered the amendment. The gentleman has charged members of the last Congress with having enacted a salary bill by trick, subterfuge and evasion, and he (Wilson) thought he would show that that gentleman had been doing the same thing himself, in an aggravated degree, during the time that he (Hale) had been drawing a salary from the Government at the rate of ten thousand dollars a year, he had been also drawing his salary as a Member of Congress. The law under which he had done it had been taken from the Speaker's table in the last hours of Congress, and had been passed without a single word of explanation. Was that manly? Was that honest? He thought that when that gentleman was seeking to cast a stigma on his fellows, it was high time he should cover into the treasury the money thus taken out of it.

Mr. ELDRIDGE explained his connection with the amendment offered by Mr. Wilson. If that originated with the gentleman from New York (Hale), it was his own fault. If that gentleman had been wallowing in a pool of mud, and had come out of it, and if some one had pasted him so that he felt himself dirty, he (Eldridge) did not think that he (Hale) had cleaned himself much this morning. By what ethics did that gentleman charge him with wrong in taking a salary of $7,500 as a servant of the United States, while he himself was taking $17,500 as an officer of the United States? Why had not the gentleman left that extra $10,000 in the Treasury, and contented himself with his pay as a Member of Congress? It was with ill grace from that gentleman to stigmatize, not only the acts, but the motives of other gentlemen. If that gentleman was dirty, it was not the gentleman from Indiana, nor the gentleman from Massachusetts, nor himself, from whom he got the filth, but from the pool in which he (Hale) had chosen to wallow.

Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, regretted very much this unfortunate, unhappy scene. He was very sorry that the heat of debate had so far misled the cool judgment of the gentleman from New York (Mr. Hale), as to make him say what he was sure he would regret, "He had been on terms of quite intimate friendship with the gentleman, and knew the valuable services which he had rendered to the Government as agent and counsel, nor did he think that $10,000 a year was too high a compensation; but they had a right to complain that that gentleman, while thus drawing $17,500 a year, had been detouncing them for drawing $7,500 a year. It looked like the rich man taking the one ewe lamb of the poor man. [Laughter.] He could refer that gentleman to high authority. Let him look at the 4th chapter of St. John, where the woman taken in adultery was brought before the Savior. He said, turning to her accusers, "Let him who is without sin among you cast the first stone." Could his friend (Hale) have led the stoning party on that occasion (laughter) as he had led the salary-repeal party in the House, all would have cut and left the woman standing alone before the Savior, and He said, "Woman, go and sin no more." That is what they intended to do in this House—to punish (only a small matter)—only their accusers had not gone out. [Continued laughter.]

Mr. COX presented the memorial of the Chamber of Commerce of the city of New York on the subject of collisions at sea.

The SPEAKER announced that he had appointed Messrs. E. R. Hoar, Cox and Hazelton regents of the Smithsonian Institution for the next two years.

Mr. GARFIELD, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported back to the Senate amendment to the bill making appropriations for the extraordinary expenses of naval service increasing the amount from four to five million dollars. The amendment was concured in.

Mr. SENER offered a resolution instructing the Committee on War Claims to inquire as to the expediency of extending the time within which loyal adherents to the Government of the United States during the war, may file their claims in accordance with the act of March 3d, 1871. Adopted.

Mr. DAWES offered a concurrent resolution of adjournment over the holidays, from to-morrow till Monday, the 5th of January. Adopted.

Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, from the Judiciary Committee, offered a supplementary Greenfield, O.; James F. Sexton, Ashtabula, civil rights bill, and gave notice that he would ask action on it to-morrow.

Various bills, of no general interest, were introduced and referred, on the supposition that the House would adjourn on Monday.

The House adjourned.

Funeral of the Late Prof. Agassiz.

BOSTON, December 18.—The funeral of the late Prof. Agassiz took place this afternoon in Appleton chapel, Harvard University. The chapel was elaborately decorated with funeral emblems and flowers, a tribute of respect from the students of the university. The remains, inclosed in a plain burial case covered with flowers, were borne into the chapel at two o'clock, followed by the immediate relatives, the organist performing a voluntary from the final chorus of pasion music by Sebastian Bach. The services were then begun with the chanting of a selection from Cherubini's requiem mass by the Harvard Glee Club. The burial service from King's Chapel liturgy was then read by Rev. A. P. Peabody, D.D., preacher of the University, and was immediately followed by the singing of the hymn, "Go to the Grave." This ended the simple and impressive service, and the body was removed as unostentatiously as it had entered the sanctuary, while the "Dead March in Saul," was performed on the organ. A long cortege followed to the burial-place in Mount Auburn cemetery. The church was densely crowded, many being unable to gain admittance. Among those present were Vice President Wilson, Governor Washburn, ex-Gov. Claflin, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Ralph Waldo Emerson and large number of other distinguished persons. The church bells in Boston and Cambridge were tolled, and flags displayed at half-staff during the progress of the funeral.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

The steamer Pommerania, from Hamburg; City of New York, from Liverpool; Trinacria, from Glasgow; and Europe, from Havre, arrived at New York yesterday.

A heavy shock of earthquake was felt in the Bear Lake valley, Utah, yesterday morning at sunrise.

Chief Justice McKean, at Salt Lake, still refuses to admit polygamists to citizenship.

One of the most terrific hail storms, accompanied by heavy wind, rain and lightning, ever witnessed in the vicinity of Nashville, passed over that city yesterday afternoon.

All the arches of the bridge across the Mississippi river, at St. Louis, are now closed.

At noon yesterday a party of ladies and gentlemen walked out to the middle arch and hoisted the stars and stripes on the tower of the pier. Work on the superstructure will be vigorously pushed forward, and it is expected that trains will be running across by the 4th of July next.

New Patent.

The Great White River Flour is now being made under a new patent and is said to be giving general satisfaction. It is now the leading brand in this market.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Naval Emergency Appropriation

REVISION OF THE ESTIMATES.

Saving of Thirty-two Millions Already Indicated

HOUSE STILL HARPING ON THEIR SALARY.

Mr. Hale, of New York, Draws a Hot Fire on Himself.

Patch of Confirmations by the Senate.

PROSPECTS FOR THE BANKRUPT ACT.

Obsequies of Colonel Dent.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 18, 1873.

Naval Emergency Bill.

The House Committee on Appropriations to-day agreed to the Senate amendments to the Naval Emergency bill, making it conform to the provisions of the act of 1870, prohibiting the transfer of appropriations to any use other than that for which they were originally made. The Committee adjourned to meet on Monday. A quorum will remain here and continue the transaction of business, even should a recess be taken.

The Revised Estimates.

It is expected that the revised estimates will begin to come in during next week, and it is the purpose of the committee to investigate them closely and put them in shape to report early in January. In all the departments the work of revision is going on rapidly. There is quite a difference of opinion as to where the reduction shall begin, each official claiming a special necessity for the amounts estimated for his particular bureau. There is one fact in the experience of the committee which will go far towards solving the problem. That is, if the executive departments do not come down sufficiently, the committee will fix the amounts to suit their own views of the necessities of the next fiscal year.

Reductions Contemplated

by the committee, and in some instances, acknowledged by the departments, foot up nearly thirty-two millions, leaving but eight millions to make up the proposed reduction of forty millions. The balance can be covered by printing out many items of expenditure in the departments, by reducing the force, which is entirely too large, and cutting down contingent expenses.

Mr. Hale and the Salary Bill.

Mr. Hale, of New York, in his violent attack on members of the Forty-second Congress who had voted for the salary bill, opened himself to a cross-fire from Mr. Wilson, of Indiana, and Ben. Butler, by both of whom he was mercilessly gratified. Mr. Hale received over ten thousand dollars as agent of the United States before the Mixed Claims Commission. An amendment to the repeal bill was introduced, to deduct his fees and salary from his pay, as a commentary on his remarks which were unreasonable. The salary reduction bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Civil Service and Retrenchment. The committee has a majority known to be in favor of reduction, and it is probable that the House bill will be amended. It is desired to act upon it to-morrow.

Senate Confirmations.

The Senate, in Executive session to-day, cleared the calendar of unobjectionable nominations. The only important nominations pending are Williams, Attorney General; Justice Hughes, Judge of the Eastern District of Virginia; and Brewster, for Attorney General.

The Bankrupt Law.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has spent much time during the last two weeks in the consideration of the defects of the bankrupt law and the remedy for the same. By consent of the Senate, the committee was in almost continuous session both yesterday and to-day, and was principally engaged on this subject. After the fullest interchange of views among the members of the committee, they have concluded not to recommend the absolute repeal of the bankrupt law. The general sentiment of the committee is that a well-devised bankrupt law is a necessity to the commercial and trading community—a law, to use the language of the chairman of the committee, "which cannot be used either for the relief of creditors or the oppressing of debtors." The committee will hold another meeting to-morrow, and hope to be able to perfect and report a law to the Senate, sometime during the day, a measure that will be acceptable and permanent, and render unnecessary in the future the passage of any special bills on the subject. The committee will in the bill that they report, retain the principle of voluntary bankruptcy, and will make important modifications of the involuntary feature. The sentiment of the committee is that the time should be extended to thirty days. The committee also favor authority to terminate proceedings in bankruptcy on the petition of two-thirds of the creditors, and they will incorporate a clause cutting down the excessive fees now allowed and guarding, as far as may be, against extortions or persecutions of honest debtors.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 18, 1873.

FUNERAL OF COL. DENT.

The funeral of Col. Dent took place this morning from the Executive mansion. In addition to the members of the Cabinet and their wives, all the heads of the departments were present all the heads of the departments. The remains were placed on the Baltimore and Potomac Railway train this afternoon en route to St. Louis, and were accompanied by the President, Col. Grant, Col. Casey, General F. T. Dent, Marshal Sharpe and General Babcock.

CASTELAR GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED.

Minister Sickles has announced to the Secretary of State the consolidation of the conflicting interests in the Spanish Cortes, and the establishment of the Castelar government.

NOMINATION WITHDRAWN.

The President sent a message to the Senate, to-day, withdrawing the nomination of Henry Kessler as Postmaster for Cincinnati.

CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.

The Senate to-day confirmed the following, among other nominations: John G. Pool, collector of customs at Sandusky, O.; collectors of Internal Revenue, Wm. R. Sapp, thirteenth district, Ohio; Edward Dube, Sixth district, Pennsylvania; postmasters, C. A. Marble, Newburg, O.; John McKee, Hamilton, O.; Jno. M. Barrere, Hillsboro, O.; R. C. Kinkaid, Greenfield, O.; James F. Sexton, Ashtabula, O.; O. J. Snyder, Fremont, O.; Jas. M. Reed, Steubenville, O.; Wm. M. McQuigg, Ironton, O.

FORT WAYNE.

The New Street Lamps—A Gun with Testing his Small-arms on a Trespasser.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, Ind., December 18, 1873.

Last evening the first test of naptha to light the streets resulted in the explosion of two lamps, but with no damaging results.

A difficulty occurred in a gunsmiths shop this afternoon in which a trespasser was forced to retreat under the persuasion of a revolver drawn by Mr. Russell, the proprietor. A summons has been issued for the arrest of Russell.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 18, 1873.

ANOTHER STEAMER FOR THE SPANIARDS.

The steamer Edgar Stewart, which made a successful landing of her fifth cargo of arms and men upon the Island of Cuba, is said to be fitting out at Baltimore for another run.

RELIEF FOR FAMILIES OF THE VIRGINIUS VICTIMS.

A charity amateur dramatic association will give a performance at the Academy of Music on Saturday night next for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the victims of the Virginius massacre. The affair is under the management of Mrs. Sheridan Shook, wife of the proprietor of the Union Square theatre.

FAILURE OF A WOOLEN FIRM.

Westhall, Whittemore & Co., dealers in woolen goods, have failed, but without attracting general attention. This was an old Boston house, who moved to New York after the great fire in the former city.

STEAMSHIP ISMALIA GIVEN UP.

The owners of the steamship Ismalia, from this port for Glasgow, have given up all hope of her safety. She had a crew of forty-five men.

THE LAST EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE DELEGATES.

The collection at the meeting of the Evangelical Alliance, on Sunday evening, for the families of Revs. Pronier and Carrasco, lost on the Ville Du Havre, amounted to nearly one thousand dollars.

JOHN E. OWENS SERIOUSLY ILL.

John E. Owens, the comedian, is lying seriously ill at Newark, N. J. He is suffering from the effects of a fall while playing "Poodles" on Monday evening.

FAILURE OF A DRY GOODS FIRM.

Wright & Tillinghast, dry goods commission merchants, notified their creditors to-day of their inability to meet maturing obligations. The suspension is caused by the loss of credit occasioned by the failure of A. W. Sprague & Co., of Providence; W. Sprague, of the latter firm, being a special partner in the firm of Wright & Tillinghast.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

VILLE DU HAVRE INVESTIGATION.

LONDON, December 18.—An official inquiry into the Ville Du Havre disaster, on the part of the British authorities, will open at Greenwich on the 30th inst.

WRECK OF A BARK.—TWELVE LIVES LOST.

LONDON, December 19, 6 A. M.—The wreck of the bark Sultan is reported with the loss of twelve lives.

Spain.

BOMBARDMENT OF CARTAGENA—THE END APPROACHING.

MADRID, December 18.—The bombardment of Cartagena continued all day. There was a terrible magazine explosion within the insurgent lines to-day. Gen. Dominquez offers pardon to all who surrender. The insurgents are able still to obtain provisions, but their ammunition is failing.

Marine News.

QUEENSTOWN, December 18.—The steamship Kenilworth, from Philadelphia, arrived.

European Markets.

LONDON, December 18.—Consols for money 91¾a 91⅞; for account 92 3/16; 5-20s of '65, 94¾; do '67, 95; 10-40s, 92¾; new 5s 91½; New York Central 78; Erie 26¾; Erie preferred 39.

FRANKFORT, December 18.—5-20s of '62, 97¾.

PARIS, December 18.—Specie in Bank of France has increased 920,000 francs. Rentes 58 francs 15 centimes.

LIVERPOOL, December 18.—Cotton dull at 8¼@8⅜d; sales 10,000 bales; American 3,800 bales; speculation and export 1,500 bales. Breadstuffs quiet; red winter wheat 12s 2da12s 6d; flour 28@29s 6d; corn 26s 3c. Cheese 64s 6d. Refined petroleum 12½a13d.

ANTWERP, December 18.—Refined petroleum 32 francs.

LOCK HAVEN.

Trial of the Renovo Rioters—Departure of Judge Mayer for Europe.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LOCK HAVEN, PA., December 18, 1873.

The trial of Frank Bennet, one of the Renovo rioters, for the murder of Smanson, which began on Monday, closed this afternoon, and Judge Dean, of Hollidaysburg, who tried the case, is charging the jury this evening. Clark and Sheehan are yet to be tried. Hon. C. A. Mayer, Judge of this district, left the city to-day—and will sail with his family for Europe on the 24th inst., on the Cunard steamer Java.

THE WEATHER.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19, 1873, 1 A. M.

PROBABILITIES.

For the Middle States, clear weather will prevail during a portion of the day, followed by increasing cloudiness and possibly light rain. The temperature will fall slightly, with light to fresh variable winds. For the lake region and the Ohio valley, winds gradually shifting to northerly and westerly, with rising and increasing pressure, lower temperature generally, cloudy weather and areas of rain and snow, except in the western portion of the lake region, where it will be clear or partly cloudy, with light to fresh northerly to westerly winds and partly cloudy weather, except possibly light rain in Michigan. For the canal regions of New York and Ohio, and the region of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, the temperature will remain above freezing during Friday. The Ohio river will continue to fall at Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, and the Mississippi will continue to rise slowly at Memphis and Vicksburg.

Midnight Bulletin.

DECEMBER 18, 1873—10:48 P. M.

PLACE OF OBSERVATION.	Ther.	Wind.	Weather.
Cairo, Ills	47	W.	Fair.
Cincinnati, O	50	S. W.	County.
Davenport, Iowa	31	N. W.	Cloudy.
Keokuk, Iowa	31	N. W.	Cloudy.
Leavenworth, Ks	37	S. W.	Clear.
Goddard, Ky	50	W.	Clear.
Memphis, Tenn	55	S. W.	Clear.
Nashville, Tenn	53	W.	Clear.
New Orleans, La	61	W.	Clear.
Pittsburgh, Pa	40	N. E.	Rain.
St. Louis, Mo	37	W.	Cloudy.
Shreveport, La	55	N. W.	Clear.
Indianapolis	37	N.	Fair.
LaCrosse	20	N.	Cloudy.
St. Paul	12	N. W.	Cloudy.
Ft. Sully	16	Calm.	Clear.
Yankton	15	N. W.	Fair.

CRIMES.

Railroad Contractor Kills an Importunate Creditor.

CHICAGO, December 18.—A special from Laporte, Indiana, says: Johnston Virtue, a contractor on the Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Chicago Railroad, while waiting for a train at the depot at Walkerton, Indiana, yesterday afternoon, was approached by Peter Walquist, who, with a drawn pistol, threatened to kill Virtue unless he was immediately paid some arrears of wages due him. Just as he reached Virtue the latter drew a revolver and shot him dead. Virtue surrendered himself to the authorities and will have a preliminary examination today.

Suicide of an Ohio Tanner.

CLEVELAND, December 18.—Samuel Dellaber, a tanner living near Fremont, Ohio, committed suicide by hanging himself to-day. He is believed to have been insane.

CASUALTIES.

An Aged Lady Burned to Death.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

ZANESVILLE, O., December 18, 1873.

Mrs. Joanna Launder, aged eighty-three years, was found in her room this morning, burned to death. It is supposed that she got up this morning and, while attempting to fix the fire in the stove, fell forward. Some of the family in going to her room and opening the door, found the room filled with smoke, the carpet and floor on fire and Mrs. Launder dead, with all clothing burned from her.

Killed by a Falling Tree.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

PLYMOUTH, IND., December 18, 1873.

A young Swede, name unknown, living three miles east of here, while engaged in cutting down a tree this afternoon, was crushed to death by the tree falling on him.

Sudden Death from Morphine.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, PA., December 18, 1873.

Philip F. Kuntz, a harness maker, of this place, died very suddenly yesterday evening from the effects of an overdose of morphine administered by himself.

Scalded to Death in a Locomotive.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

GALION, O., December 18, 1873.

Mrs. Jane Higgins, while walking on the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad track, last night, was struck by the engine of the night freight coming from the east, and so badly injured that life was extinct in a few minutes. She is believed to have been under the influence of liquor.

Whitening Wool.

The sulphurizing of wool can, to a certain extent, be avoided by placing it, after scouring, in a blueing bath at 122 deg., (composed for fifty pounds of wool) of alum two pounds, tartar nine ounces, sulphuric acid one pound, starch nine ounces, sulphate of indigo three ounces, archil one and a half ounces; and working at that temperature for three-quarters of an hour. The white thus obtained, though generally satisfactory, can be much improved by squeezing out the wool, without washing it, and dipping it in a lukewarm solution of one pound of chloride of barium to the sulphate of tartar, a permanent white, deposited in the fibers, adds to the weight as well as the whiteness of the wool.

Committee of "Public Safety."

Mr. J. B. Guthrie, who was the chairman of the rather disorderly meeting of Saturday evening last, has, in accordance with a resolution then adopted, appointed a committee as follows: It contains some very respectable names, but it is questionable whether many of them will serve, and what good purpose may be gained:

Isaac Jones, Alex. King, John R. Baum, J. W. Knox, John Brown, T. R. Whiteman, Samuel Ewart, Alex. Bradley, M. McCullough, John Ewart, from 2d Ward; Thomas Hay, Dan'l O'Neil, Wm. Alexander, Geo. M. Reed, Alex. M. Guthrie, And. Miller, J. G. Hammond, James W. Brown, Joseph Dilworth, William Barr, Edmond Wilkins, William Robinson, A. J. Steinmeyer, T. S. Parker, John Moorehead, James Kelly, Dr. A. Arthurs, W. H. Smith, H. S. McKee, George W. Hallman, J. W. Riddell, R. F. Nevin, Joseph Woodwell, Sr., Samuel Morrow, D. Hostetter, Thomas J. Howard, C. W. Robb, J. D. Kelly, R. H. Hartley.

The committee is called to meet on Saturday afternoon, 20th inst., at 2½ o'clock at the office of Alex. King, No. 94 Water street.

Westmoreland Presbytery.

The United Presbyterian Presbytery of Westmoreland met at Unity church on the 16th instant, adjourning yesterday. Mr. E. Z. Thomas was ordained and installed pastor of Unity congregation. Rev. J. S. Speer was released from Buena Vista to take charge of Cannonsburg congregation, Presbytery of Chartiers. It is the universal regret of the Presbytery that Mr. Speer leaves its bounds with the close of the year.

Rev. Oliver Kaiz tendered his resignation of Apollo which was laid over till next meeting, Presbytery. The meanwhile supplying that pulpit. The connection as one pastoral charge was dissolved in the case of Fairfield and Donegal; a call from Fairfield for Mr. H. Vincent was sustained as regular and sent to the candidate.

Mr. William Shaw, a theological student preached a very commendable discourse before Presbytery.

Adjourned to meet at McKeesport on the 2nd Tuesday of April.

Great Inducements for Cash

For flour and all kinds of groceries at the Checkered Front.

ALLEGHENY COUNCILS.

Special Meeting---Unfinished Business.

A special meeting of Allegheny City Councils was held last evening.

SELECT BRANCH.

Resolutions passed in Common Council for the repairing of board walks on the Perrysville Plank road and Ohio street, were non-concurred in.

A remonstrance against a butcher's rendering establishment on East street, was referred to the Health Committee.

Warrants were ordered for the payment of fifty dollars to James McAlee for painting done on the marked house, and for the payment of a similar amount to the congregation of the M. E. Church in the Ninth ward, for the use of their private gas main, belonging to the church, for the lighting of the engine house.

A number of gas lamps were ordered to be put up in different parts of the city.

The ordinance authorizing the grade of Vinial street, non-concurred in by Common Council, was called up, and Select Council resolved to adhere to their former action.

The ordinance relative to the fining of boys for stealing rides on trains, which by Common Council was modified to make it to apply only to boys under fifteen years of age, was next considered and this branch resolved to adhere to their former action and apply for a conference committee.

On motion the rules were suspended and new business was taken up.

Mr. Megraw presented a petition claiming $425 damage to a coal barge and float by the late flood in the river, through the negligence of the city in not providing secure moorings.

Referred to the Committee on Wharves and Landings.

A number of petitions, but none of public interest, were then presented and referred.

A motion to take up the ordinance opening Preble avenue was defeated by a motion to adjourn.

COMMON BRANCH.

In the absence of the President, Mr. McNeil took the chair.

The resolution in reference to framing the draft of an act of Assembly to be presented to the Legislature, giving the city power to levy assessments on persons benefited by the purchase of turnpikes, passed in select council, was concurred in.

STEAMSHIPS.

The ordinance for the extension of Beavar avenue, from Strawberry lane to the New Brighton road, was laid over.

The ordinance changing the place of holding elections in the Tenth ward was laid on the table.

Mr. Hastings then presented an ordinance fixing the salary of the clerk of committees at $800 per annum, after the first of January, 1874, and the salary of the Clerks of Councils at $600 each per annum. Referred to Finance Committee.

Mr. Weltach moved to reconsider the action just taken, which motion prevailed, and Mr. Hastings then moved that the portion relating to the clerks of committees be stricken out. Passed.

In the matter of the viewer's report on the opening of English alley, Common Council refused to concur in the action of Select Council.

Mr. Price called up from the table the ordinance of the opening of Beaver avenue and following immediate action, arising concurrence with Select Council. Mr. Hastings took the same view, and said there was a little town in the way, but that would soon be removed. The ordinance which could not be built unless the avenue was opened.

After a general expression of opinion all around, during which some members made each or twelve speeches, the yeas and nays were at length called, and the ordinance passed finally.

A motion on some subject was then put and passed amid the protestation of many members, who avered they did not know what the motion was.

In the confusion which followed, a motion to adjourn was made and carried.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

District Court—Judges Kirkpatrick and White.

Charles Wenzer vs. the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. This was an action to recover damages for an injury to the plaintiff on defendant's railroad. The case is being tried before Judge White.

J. Sharp McDonald vs. Daniel Bisher and R. B. Robison, owners of the steamer "Tom Dodsworth." The case is on trial before Judge Kirkpatrick.

In the case of Jacob Och vs. the Homestead Bank and Life Insurance Company, previously reported, the jury this morning returned a verdict for the plaintiff for $1,134 70, subject to the opinion of the Court on the reserved question.

In the case of Brown vs. the owners of the "Picket," previously reported, before the verdict is rendered, plaintiff enters a

The Daily Commercial.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1873.

THE Senate has refused to take the usual holiday recess. Good. The duty of Congress is to work while work is pressing. There are no holidays in revolutionary times.

THE Democratic Senators all voted in favor of an adjournment over the holidays; and if the adjournment had carried, they would have united with their party in denouncing the Administration for neglecting its work.

THE House of Representatives was particularly careful not to give the public any chance to know how its members voted on the final passage of the reduced salary bill, having refused to order the yeas and nays. This kind of trickery is well understood, and as the Democrats were as active in it as their opponents, we hope they will have the grace to abide by their own action, without trying to throw the blame on other shoulders.

IT is understood that Governor DIX, in his forthcoming message, will be emphatic in urging lower salaries for most of the offices in New York city. He has been a daily visitor to the Mayor's office for some time, for the purpose of familiarizing himself with questions pertaining to the city government. His recommendations in regard to reform in municipal affairs will be heartily seconded by the people, irrespective of party.

THE New York *Bulletin* states that the financial condition of the dry goods trade "shows a continuous and marked improvement. There have been no important failures in the interior (with a single exception), and the city jobbers have liquidated their indebtedness with unfailing regularity. The most prominent city jobbers, who were compelled to ask an extension of time during the late panic, have come forward and *anticipated payment of their January instalments*—a course which they are likely to follow in the future."

THE seven votes in the Senate against the bill to appropriate four millions to pay for the naval expenditures caused by the Virginius flurry, were all cast by Democrats. If the money had not been spent and the honor of the nation had not been maintained, these seven Senators would have been among the first to cry out against the Government for not maintaining the honor of the flag: but now that that honor has been vindicated, they are unwilling to pay the cost of it. Whenever there is a chance to be disloyal, some men cannot resist the temptation in that direction.

W. A. COLLINS, Esq., has retired from the *Evening Chronicle*, his interest having been purchased by his partner, JOSEPH G. SIEBENECK, Esq. Mr. COLLINS, during the nine years in which he has had editorial management of the paper, has conducted it with ability and dignity, and fully maintained its character as a newspaper. He retires with the good will and esteem of his editorial brethren, who will join in wishing him abundant success in whatever he may undertake. Mr. SIEBENECK, who has heretofore devoted himself mainly to the business department, now assumes editorial control, and under his management we have no doubt that the *Chronicle* will continue to prosper as in the past.

For the purpose of comparing the promise with the performance, we put on record these two predictions. First, the New York *Times* says:

"For many years the Pennsylvania Legislature has been even more notorious than that of New York for corruption, and it is one of the chief merits of the new Constitution that *it puts an end to this scandal*. Hereafter everything done at Harrisburg must be done with a publicity which will aid in *insuring* purity."

And second, Mr. CLYMER said in Congress, on Wednesday:

"Yesterday the great old Commonwealth of Pennsylvania *had rendered impossible, forever hereafter*, those frauds and corruptions in legislation which had heretofore cursed her and outraged her."

THE Finance Committee of Councils is patiently and diligently laboring to get at the facts connected with the missing water bonds, and the public is patiently waiting for the result. So far the investigation has been very thorough and persistent, and we have every confidence that it will be prosecuted properly to the end. In the meantime, while prudence calls for the suppression of comments upon partially developed facts, it is very hard to restrain the impatience which the unavoidable delay begets. The first thing to be done is to get at the facts; nothing that is yet to come can change the already well-established fact that a great public crime has been committed, or change the general determination that the criminal shall be brought to justice. To carry that determination into effect is, after all, the great burden that rests upon the Finance Committee and Councils, and the public will never rest easy until the guilty have been brought to punishment.

THE Philadelphia *North American* points to the result in that city on the new Constitution as an evidence of the falsity of the allegation that a fair election could not be had in that city. It says:

"We cannot refrain from pointing to the peaceable character of the election itself and to the effectual verdict rendered as a decisive answer to the wild allegations of fraud that have been rife for some time. It is very questionable whether this discreditable agency is so potent anywhere as is supposed. The intelligence, personal independence and strong bias of character of people are opposed to the notion that majorities can be bought and sold at will. Whatever the case may be in any other community, we are confident that reports of the evil in this have been violently exaggerated; and that usually, as in this instance, where neither personal nor partisan interests counseled resort to improper methods on either side a majority of the electors decide according to their individual will. The contrary representation is injurious to the purity it denies, and is also a most obnoxious reflection upon Republican institutions."

PROFESSOR AGASSIZ AMERICANIZED.

It is reasonable to expect that in due time a complete and satisfactory biography of the late Professor AGASSIZ will be given to the world, and if the great naturalist has left memoirs, diaries, etc., as materials for such a work, the book will be all the more valuable and entertaining. In the meantime, the daily and weekly newspapers are doing what they can to revive familiar and to impart fresh knowledge concerning the man lately gone: the monthly magazines and the reviews will presently furnish more abundant details of his career and more carefully considered estimates of his character. While regarded with affectionate admiration by those who knew him more or less intimately, Professor AGASSIZ awakened a lively interest in the general public, even in persons who cared little for the pursuits by which he became famous. Hundreds, or even thousands of people in almost every section of the country, to whom the word "glacier" still conveys vague meaning and to whom "fishes" are simply things to be caught and eaten, yet felt profound respect for AGASSIZ.

Generally expressed, one reason of the esteem in which Professor AGASSIZ was held by the American people was his capacity to understand them and their institutions. Though nearly forty years old when he came to the United States, a period of life at which a man's opinions and prejudices regarding society, manners, institutions, etc., are usually very strong, if not fixed, he proved that he was not too old to become Americanized. True, he was a Swiss, born and brought up under a republican government; but one must not therefore suppose that no or few strange and at first repulsive contrasts presented themselves to the newcomer. And a savant, already illustrious in the possession of a European reputation, might seem all the more liable to yield to the temptation of contempt or of unreserved disapproval for the novel arrangements and the apparently crude, provincial sentiment prevalent in the youthful republic. Nothing of the sort befell Professor AGASSIZ; his sound common sense, scientific spirit, and genuine, comprehensive culture saved him from the mistakes so often made by inferior men. Instead of scorning or quietly repelling as wrong whatever in popular sentiment or social customs he here found different from what he had been familiar with in Europe, he applied himself to the study of American institutions and American character, in the same spirit in which he studied the natural history of the country, and though he by no means learned to admire all American customs or to adopt all American opinions, he did learn to comprehend both the customs and the opinions.

It is a mistake to believe that the views favorable to slavery, at one time taught by AGASSIZ, were the result of either sympathy with American slaveholders, or of the adoption of American prejudices. Though they undoubtedly recommended the scholar who held them to the good will and patronage of slaveholders and to some wealthy men in the North, he had found them in Europe and brought them with him to this country. Professor CARL VOGT, with whom AGASSIZ had been associated in research, could, no doubt, give satisfactory testimony on this subject.

On the other hand, the views finally attained by the Professor on the subjects of Sabbath observance and the temperance question were the results of his study of American history and institutions, and of his personal observations in the United States. Of course, concerning both those subjects he brought with him the opinions and prejudicies of a continental European, and was led to exchange them for other views only through the conviction that they are not adapted to promote the best interests of the American people. As to temperance in the technical sense of the word, a man of his sense and science could hardly fail to perceive that there is somewhat in the American climate and in the American temperament which throws around the use of intoxicating drinks, conditions unknown or little known in Europe, and that the consequence is a practical problem of tremendous import, which still remains for the American people to solve, if they are to remain their own rulers. The Sunday question also must early have presented itself to the mind of AGASSIZ as involving a most momentous interest in connection with a republican government, apart from the intimate association of the day of rest and reflection with the moulding period of American history. When a people are free from the cares of self-government and ruled by a few superiors, aided by a standing army, it may matter little how they spend their leisure; but the foreigner who fails to see the use of one quiet day in seven to American republicans has yet to learn the first elements of American polity. And it is certainly an instructive fact that such adopted citizens of the Republic as Professor AGASSIZ, Dr. FRANCIS LIEBER, etc., men of thorough culture and scientific spirit, never, after sufficient observation, fail to recognize the political and social importance of those American customs and prepossessions which uneducated or half-educated foreigners denounce as mere outgrowths of ignorance and superstition, or else deride and scoff at as the fruitage of canting hypocrisy.

To pretend that Professor AGASSIZ was influenced by interested motives in adopting prevalent American views on the questions referred to, implies a very imperfect knowledge of the character of the man. No foreigner among us ever proved himself more completely above the meanness ascribed to him, as, when there was occasion, he never hesitated to express with the utmost frankness his opinion of defects and wrongs in American institutions. Thus he criticised the New England schools, and did not spare even those of Boston, and, in fact, well performed the part of an educational reformer.

LOOSE IDEAS OF BANKING.

We hope no one of the rising generation of bankers and financiers will fail to read and profit by the revelations made before the Finance Committee as to the management of the Nation Trust Company. It is a most astounding revelation; and the young men who are to be our future bank presidents, directors and cashiers should read it carefully, in order to guard themselves from ever falling into such blunders.

The directors of this bank admitted that they really knew nothing of its affairs or condition. They trusted implicitly to the cashier, and never examined the books, or verified an account, or took the necessary steps to satisfy themselves that every thing was right. "The Cashier," the book-keeper says, "was the bank." There was a President, and a Board of Directors, and a book-keeper; but "the Cashier was the bank," the other officers being mere appendages. Useful appendages, however, some of them proved to be to the Cashier; for the book-keeper frankly admits that he altered the books at his bidding, to hoodwink the Directors, when a merely nominal investigation was going on, and erased the alterations when the attempt at investigation was over. The Cashier seems to have been very lucky in finding a book-keeper pliable enough to suit his purposes.

The position we took, a few days since, as to the responsibilities of men in public positions, apply with equal force to men acting in a fiduciary capacity. The responsibility of properly managing a bank rests on the directors. They cannot throw that responsibility off on to their cashier. He, too, is responsible in his place; but *their* responsibilities cannot be thrown off on him. The Water commissioners were culpable in leaving their great trust in the hands of their secretary; and bank directors are just as culpable who trust everything to their employees.

We mean nothing personal in these remarks, and make no personal application of them. But we are warranted in making these revelations the text of a renewed effort to impress on the minds of all our readers that the great trouble we are laboring under, as a people, is the decayed sense of personal responsibility which is manifested in such events as this. It is not material to inquire who or what is to blame for it; but it is the duty of every man who assumes a trust to cultivate that high sense of personal responsibility which should impel him to look as carefully after the business of others entrusted to him as to his own. The President of the Nation Trust Company would not sign his name to a note until he was indemnified for it by the directors, which was all right and proper; but why did he not give the same attention to the affairs of his bank to which to own signature? We say this, not for the purpose of discussing his case individually, or of singling him out, but simply because it is the instance which, for the present, turns up to our hand. Every man whose name is published as a bank director virtually asks the public, thereby to trust his bank on the strength of the names of the men who have undertaken to give their personal attention to its affairs. The responsibility which every director assumes is a personal one; and there can be no safety to either the bank or those who do business with it, where this sense of personal responsibility is not carefully maintained and cultivated.

Currency Increased Without Expansion.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The short, direct and easy way to clear daylight in our financial dilemma is for Congress to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to anticipate interest on United States bonds and issue bank notes to be exchanged for coupons on said bonds, redeemable in coin at the time coupons are redeemable, for which said notes are exchanged. This would increase the circulating medium to any quantity required, without increasing the liability of the Government, and the certainty of their redemption in coin would increase their value and their convenience as a circulating medium would keep them afloat even after the time had expired for which they were issued. This will not, in the least increase the liability of the Government, and will ease us down to specie payment. GREENBACK.

The "Telegraph" and Mr. William B Negley.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The *Evening Telegraph* of Wednesday pitches into and abuses William B. Negley, for his manner in examining witnesses before the Finance Committee in the matter of the missing water bonds.

It may be that Mr. Negley is not as expert as some other lawyers in conducting examinations; but this one thing, at least, can be said in his favor, that he has not appeared as counsel on *both sides* of this case. If he was sharp enough to appear for Ross as well as for the city, he might be able to put his questions more dextrously. X.

An Illustrious Theft.

The most illustrious theft in Spanish story is one recorded of no less a person than the fine old national hero, the Cid. As the sufferers were Jews, it might be thought that his conscience would not have hurt him in those days; but "My Cid" was a kind of early soldier in behalf of sentiment; and though he went to work roughly, he meant nobly and kindly. "God knows," said he, on the present occasion, "I do this thing more of necessity than of willfulness; but by God's help I shall redeem all." The case was this. The Cid, who was too good a subject not to please his master, the King, had quarrelled with him, or rather, had been banished; and nobody was to give him house-room or food. A number of friends, however, followed him; and by the help of his nephew, Martin Antolinez, he proposed to raise some money. Martin accordingly negotiated the business with a couple of Jews, who, for a deposit of two chests full of spoil, which they were not to open for a year, on account of political circumstances, agreed to advance six hundred marks. "Well, then," said Martin Antolinez, "I see that the night is advancing, the Cid is in haste; give us the marcs." "This is not the way of business," said they; "we must take first, and then give." Martin accordingly goes with them to the Cid, who in the meantime had filled a couple of heavy chests with sand. The Cid smiled as they kissed his hand, and said, "Ye see I am going out of the land because of the king's displeasure; but I shall leave something with ye." The Jews made a suitable answer, and were then desired to take the chests; but, though strong men, they could not raise them. "Ye have deceived us!" This put them in such spirits that after telling out the six hundred marcs —which Don Martin took without weighing—they offered the Cid a present of a fine red skin; and upon Martin suggesting that he thought his own services in the business merited a pair of hose, they consulted a minute with each other, in order to do something like good and handsome, and gave him money enough to buy not only the hose, but rich doublet and good cloak into the bargain.—*Leigh Hunt.*

A CORRESPONDENT who has been looking into the probable expense of the proposed Kanawha canal, writes from Washington to the Cincinnati *Commercial*: "The lowest estimate of the cost of the canal that I can find is $48,000,000. Taking other great works of internal improvement as an example, comparing their estimated cost with what they did cost, and the James river job will not come a cent under $100,000,000. I regard the work as a physical impossibility at any time, but allowing it to be possible and gauging the cost by other works of improvement, the result is an expenditure of at least one hundred millions of dollars. These figures deserve the careful attention of taxpayers."

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Shrewsburg, Vermont, is examining into the manufacture of butter from mutton tallow, and if it finds that the industry will pay, will pur-sue.

Eight weekly newspapers in Illinois have suspended within a week, six of which were *Journals*.

"The bright particular star, whose effulgent light shines most conspicuous in the galaxy which illuminates the dramatic horizon in America at present," is playing in Charleston, S. C.

A Wisconsin milliner rejoices in the classical surname of Juno, and the wives of jovial husbands don't approve of it.

In Illinois and Indiana the jury in criminal cases declares what the penalty shall be—whether hanging or imprisonment for life.

One of the Prussian military institutions which have been of late specially commended to their comrades by the reforming class of French officers, is that of the regimental court of honor, the use of which is found with the Germans to have greatly modified the former barbarous system of duelling at every slight affront.

In consequence of an English schoolmaster refusing to obey an order of the rector to occupy a seat in the gallery of the church behind his pupils, the rector has requested the scholars not to attend school, and has insured their obedience by having a padlock placed upon the door. Both teacher and pupils are thus locked out.

The report of the State Salt Inspector of Michigan shows that 823,346 barrels of salt were inspected last year—an increase of nearly 100,000 barrels over last year, and the largest amount ever inspected. The salt producing territory has been considerably enlarged during the year.

The Mayor and five aldermen of Minneapolis, Minn., were brought up, last week, to answer a charge of violation of the ordinance against fast driving.

Nearly 700 families, numbering 4,000 persons, in twelve counties in Iowa, are in dire need of assistance to carry them through the winter. Appeals are made for clothing, fuel and provisions, and for seed to sow 75,000 acres of land already broken.

Baltimore distributes weekly 6,820 gallons of soup and 910 loaves of bread, supplying daily 160 families, representing 700 persons.

A Sunderland, Mass., farmer raises a thousand dollars' worth of onions to the acre, and doesn't belong to the grange either. He thinks he is strong enough without it.

Shockumville, an embryo Northern Pacific metropolis in Washington territory, is just now the seat of a lively railroad war.

Most of the people of northern Idaho seem to desire the annexation of that part of their territory to Washington territory.

Bread two hundred and fifty-three years old was exhibited at the Boston Tea Party on Tuesday. It should have been toasted.

The fact that Miss *T. Deum* sung a very nice song is established by an announcement to that effect in an Indiana paper.

A French gentleman learning English to some purpose, replied thus to the salutations: "How do you do, monsieur?" "Do vat?" "How do you find yourself?" "I never loses myself." "How do you feel?" "Smooth. You just feel me."

There are 120 men residing in six counties in California who own 3,140,000 acres of land. A part of this large area consists of Mexican ranches, but much the greatest part has been acquired by scrip, land warrants and cash purchases at almost nominal prices.

Richmond, Va., indignantly demands an investigation, because overcoats for its firemen were bought in Baltimore at higher prices than they could be bought for at home.

The California wheat yield for 1873-74 will be enormous. Forty million bushels, according to the most reliable data at hand, is the estimate. This is more than double that of last year, and 50 per cent. in excess of that of 1871. The Golden State, at this rate, bids fair to be at some future day what Egypt was in ancient times—the granary of the world.

The sale of "through tickets" to points beyond the terminus of the initial road does not make that road responsible for damages occurring on the connecting lines. Such is the decision of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in a recent case.

Pine, Twiggs & Co., of New York, are manufacturers of kindling wood. Their names could not be more appropriate to their business.

The postoffice at Manassas, Va., was simultaneously sought by a man and a woman. Finally, the matter was referred, both candidates consenting, to popular election. The vote has just been taken, and the woman is ahead.

The error in the line of the Mont Cenis tunnel, when the headings were brought together, was half a yard or about an inch to every thousand feet, while at Hoosac, the whole variation was nine sixteenths of an inch, or less than one sixteenth to the thousand feet.

Terror has been sent to the hearts of more than two hundred employes of the Executive Departments at Washington by notices that have been given them that their services will be no longer required after a stated period, no exceeding thirty days.

PERSONAL.

It is now stated that Rev. Hugh Miller Thompson, rector of Christ Episcopal Church, New York, and one of the editors of the *Church Journal*, does not aspire to become the successor of the late Bishop Armitage, of Wisconsin.

The tenor Capoul has a bowl of oatmeal gruel made for him every night before retiring, into which he squeezes a lemon, and then —washes his face with the mixture.

The Rothschilds are worth about one thousand millions of dollars, as a firm, twelve of them, including their individual fortunes. They need not cry for soup.

Mrs. Sam. Colt, of Hartford, signs every check and order used by her revolver foundry, and takes a walk through the establishment twice a week.

"Elizabeth *Owen*, Dowager of Prussia," is dead, says an exchange. Elizabeth Owen never was dowager of Prussia. Possibly the writer was thinking of Irish history, and meant Garry-Owen, or possibly Owen was printed for Queen.

Mr. Bradlaugh seems to have met with little encouragement at the West, the St. Louis *Democrat* saying that his audience was very thin, and speaking of his lecture at St. Joseph, says: His address was cut short by the slim attendance, and when a gentleman, at its close, arose and said, "Can we not give three cheers for Republicanism in England?" the orator, who was just leaving the stage, turned on his heel, and, with a gesture that commanded silence, said: "I hope not; it would be a mockery in an empty house."

Fargeon, the "second Dickens," is a Hebrew. Of him the *Jewish Messenger* says: "It is a curious fact to reflect on, that to-day the most popular Christmas story writer in England is a Jew. True, the occasion is the birthday of a Jew whom the Christian world deifies; but there is no reason for self-congratulation, for if there has been deification of a Jew, there has also been the bitterest persecution of the creed to whose observances he was so strict a conformist. That Mr. Fargeon has contrived by sheer force of talent to acquire his present proud position, and that his stories sink deeply into the popular heart from their winning grace, kindly sentiment and freedom from cant—this indicates how prejudice is dissipated by knowledge. The prejudice, perhaps, has been on both sides. It does not render a Jew to-day less Jewish if he employs the aid of Christmas stories to hasten the era of peace and good will on earth."

The New York *Times*, in the course of a noble tribute to Agassiz, gives the following anecdote, illustrative of his contempt of charlatanry: When home, the medium, was at Boston, and was able to induce some men of note there to come and investigate his tricks and spasms, Agassiz remained aloof. One day the medium's "agent" seeing the great naturalist in a railway car, introduced himself, and urged Agassiz to come to the *seances*, saying that he owed it to his position as a man of science to attempt to account for such extraordinary phenomena. He was listened to with glacial indifference. But when, among other wonderful "phenomena," he told of a mysterious and half-luminous hand which descended from the air and wrote oracular sayings, Agassiz turned quickly to him and said, "Yes, I'll come. But, mind you! You see I'm strong, and I shall bring my schlager"—(short sword)—"with me, and when that hand appears, I shall seize it and drive my schlager through it into the table." "You surely wouldn't attempt such an unscientific proceeding as that, Professor, would you?" said the agent. "I shall, as surely as I come," was the reply, and Agassiz was worried with no more invitations.

In order to obviate the payment of legacy duty, the late Mr. Baring, of London, transferred, the day before his death, the immense sum of $6,250,000 to his nephew, Lord Northbrook, then in India.

The soaring and untamed Jenkins has at last received a check; Nemesis has left a card for him. He was lately tried in Russia for publishing news concerning the Imperial family without official authority, and the trial ended in the award of a penalty, insignificant, it is true, but still a penalty. Russia bids fair to become one of the most civilized countries on the earth.

The youth O'Connor, who, some time ago, tried to frighten Queen Victoria into signing a pardon for the Fenian convicts, is now in Australia. The Queen interested herself in him, shortened his term of imprisonment, and, when he was released, had him fitted out and sent away from England. He consumes his time with attention to some clerical duties and composing letters in verse, expressing his gratitude to the Queen.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Benefits of District Conferences—Essay by the Rev. Wm. H. Kincaid.

The following essay was read at the West Pittsburgh Conference of the M. E. Church, held at Washington, Pa., Tuesday and Wednesday, November 25 and 26 inst., by Rev. W. H. Kincaid, a local minister of this city:

"The benefits to be derived from the introduction of the District Conference into our church polity."

Among the important questions discussed previous to the last General Conference, at Brooklyn, N. Y., was that of District Conferences. It was urged chiefly on the ground that the work of local preachers could be better systematized, and that other special advantages could be realized. The Bishops, in their address to the General Conference, favored the measure and numerous petitions in favor of its organization were presented by the delegates. The former being referred to the Committee on Episcopacy, we believe no action was taken. The latter were sent to the Committee on the Itinerancy, but that grave body declined to report favorably, alleging reasons against the measure which have since been proved futile. Subsequently the deputation, on behalf of the "National Local Preachers' Association," appeared and presented an Address and Memorial on the subject of the District Conference, chiefly for the purpose of supervising and systematizing the work of Local Preachers, and using proper means to elevate the standard of ministerial ability, and secure a better class of candidates for the ministry. The address and memorial were referred to the Committee on the State of the Church, Rev. Dr. Curry, Chairman, who sympathized with the movement of the local preachers. Members of the delegation were present at the meeting of the committee at different times, explaining and urging the measure, and interviewing the chairman. Finally a chapter was prepared by Dr. Curry, providing for the formation of District Conferences combining more general and popular features than proposed in the memorial of the National Local Preachers' Association, which, after a sharp debate, finally was adopted. Since then this new feature has been introduced, and Conferences organized throughout the West, and pretty generally in the East. From the discussion at the last session of the National Local Preachers' Association, it is likely the next General Conference will be memoralized to change the chapter on District Conferences in some respects, and make it absolute for Presiding Elders to organize such bodies in their respective districts without reference to the action of the Quarterly Conference. This, in brief, is the history of the organization of District Conferences. The practical workings of this new body in our Church polity, so far as this Annual Conference is concerned, is a grand success.

In its present form, it combines in one body what had frequently required three distinct organizations in a district, namely: Ministerial Association, Sunday School Convention and District Stewards meeting. Now, these may be blended into one, and in some respects may accomplish more real, substantial good than formerly. The benefits derived from the biblical and literary performances, of a purely ministerial association, are two fold, increasing the culture of the ministers, and giving instruction to lay members upon topics which are seldom discussed in the pulpit. Related to the Sunday School work, it brings out questions far more pertinent and practical than the general topics, brought under review at Sunday School conventions. Questions discussed at the District Conference relate more to Methodism and the wants of the respective charges, than in the aspect too frequently in its catholic form to all denominations. There are some things relating to our Sunday Schools that should be wholly viewed for the interests of our Church and without respect to the general opinions of a mixed convention, and no place is more suitable than the District Conference. So in regard to District Stewards Meeting; here each Steward has associated with him the pastor, and they reflect and represent the charges. The question of time, travel, expense, &c., of holding those distinct organized meetings, in some instances several times each year, instead of two District Conferences, which may be made to exhibit everything needful, and much more than many other church matters, needs only to be stated to convince every one of the benefits of this body. Looking at the general benefits of this new feature in our Church polity, as above stated, let us view the special benefits.

1. Authority conferred by a sovereign power to constitute, respect and obedience. The economy of our Church ministers and people agree to abide by a third or central power. This authority we acknowledge and respect. Behind and above this is the power produced by the Church itself, speaking through the ministerial and lay delegates in General Conference assembled. By this authority this body is constituted, on observance certain conditions, and recognizes all classes in the Church. It imposes a specific duty on the Presiding Elder, the traveling and local preacher—the former to give an account of the work and the latter to do likewise, and be subject to an examination of character and re-license, if unordained—requires exhorters to pass through the same steps, superintendents of not less than fifteen dition of schools and recognizes the District Steward of each church.

(1.) Presiding elders authority is not diminished, for is his work in Quarterly Visitation? To some extent certain disciplinary questions and answers are the same in the district as Quarterly Conferences, with this advantage, in the former, the reports from the several charges, or districts as a stimulus upon each other, and their reports are fuller and more inspiring.

(2.) Pastors are brought into contact with other pastors, and the reports in their diversified form are apt to produce aggressive and more liberal views. It is well in everything to hear the views of others and the effect is usually wholesome.

(3.) The careful examination of local preachers and exhorts, before disinterested persons, and redeeming them upon their merits and *suitability for* the work, is a much better plan than by the Quarterly Conference. This careful scrutiny of character and inquiry into the work of each local preacher will have a salutary effect upon them. This recognition and assignment to systematic work as far as possible, opens their way to favor with the people and greater usefulness.

(4.) Pastors are required to report relative to the Sunday-schools in the Quarterly Conference, while the District Conference exacts a report from the superintendent as well as the pastor. The influences of this course upon the different superintendents cannot well be imagined.

(5.) District Stewards become acquainted with the real condition of each charge, and they can act intelligently in their work. This knowledge cannot fail to have a happy effect, and the discussions upon Church matters, will tend to give them light and knowledge, such as they may not readily acquire elsewhere.

2. Taking into account the representations of the ministry and laymen brought together to consult and discuss questions of finance various departments of Church labor, examination of ministerial character, and cultivate the social elements, the District Conference, if properly worked, is destined to advance every interest, and in time become a wonderful power in the Church. We believe it may be changed so as to be empowered to supervise some financial and kindred interests which the Annual Conference is unable to do well while in session.

3. Communities unable to entertain an Annual Conference can be favored with sessions of District Conference. While their proceedings are unlike in some respects, yet the public service especially are greatly enjoyed, and usually make a fine impression and leave a salutary effect upon the church wherever they are held. This testimony is almost universal.

4. All the ministers of a District Conference generally participate in its discussions and business, while but very few members of an Annual Conference participate beyond what related to themselves. The organization and reading of essays and the discussions which follow, as well as in the transaction of the routine part of the proceedings, tend to discipline the minds of young ministers, which they might not obtain readily at a session of an Annual Conference. These Conferences develop latent talent in ministers, which might never have been seen at the Annual Conference.

5. Members of the Church have an opportunity to hear questions of polity and doctrine, as well as on finances, which will result in much good. Everything which tends to disseminate light and knowledge of the wants and demand of Methodism, benefits the ministry and membership of the Church. District Conferences may, if properly used, be instrumental in doing much good in these respects.

6. The intermingling of ministers and lay members of a district cannot fail but produce fine results. The social element can be cultivated, and a bond of union established, that may enhance the interests of the district. Brethren have formed acquaintances already, which might never have been attained, if district conferences had not been organized.

7. We believe finally that the benefits derived are numerous, and calculated to render the various departments of the Church more efficient and successful, by the organization of these bodies, and if productive of so much good in their infancy, the future of the organiation indicates that it will be one of the most important arms of service ever instituted by the Church. To this end let every member be impressed with the obligation and bounden duty to attend its sessions, and those who neglect to fulfill the duty should be sharply reproved for their lack of interest in matters required by the authorities of the Church. Laymen especially, who have been invited to a more enlarged sphere of activity, should use this power awarded them, for their neglect may defeat the object they have sought to attain. Let us all, ministers and members, use this great lever of power as we should, and our district work in all its departments will "blossom as the roses." May it be so!

Outrage at Warren, Michigan.

Great indignation prevails at Warren over a discovery of the beastly acts of Charles Alton, teacher of the Roman Catholic school connected with Father Hendrick's church. The crimes have been continued for the last fifteen months, and were accidentally discovered by a girl who suspected what was going on, as it was the daily habit of Alton to call one or two of the little girls from the school into the church with him, and remain absent with them for half an hour or so. She finally questioned one of the girls who had been in the habit of going out with the teacher, and found her suspicions confirmed. She notified her mother, and inquiry was immediately set on foot. Learning what was going on, Alton fled, and has not been arrested. It appears that about twenty girls, ten or twelve years old, were the victims of his rascality. His plan was his plan to take two of them at a time, leaving one of them on guard at the door while he went into the church with the other and debauched her on the very steps of the altar. When the act was finished he held the crucifix before them, and swore them to secrecy of the deed until they were sixteen years old. The scoundrel is fifty-five years old, partly bald, with a peculiar cast in his left eye, and is rather corpulent.

Three Paths Out of Difficulty.

[From the Boston Advertiser.]

The national finances are in a bad way. One year ago Mr. Boutwell estimated the receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1874, at $320,300,000, and the expenditures at $286,600,000, leaving a surplus of $33,700,000. There has been no reduction of taxation since, and yet the present estimates for the same year indicate a total of ordinary receipts of only $269,000,000, while the expenditures are expected to rise to $289,300,000. The difference is so remarkable that it is worth while to compare the estimates of Mr. Richardson in the second quarter of the year with those of Mr. Boutwell made up twelve months earlier:

ESTIMATE OF RECEIPTS.

	Boutwell. Dec. 1872.	Richardson. Dec. 1873.
Customs	$200,000,000	$160,195,484
Sales of public lands	3,000,000	2,073,768
Internal revenue	162,000,000	91,610,454
Tax on National banks	6,300,000	6,690,744
Pacific Railway	900,000	498,971
Customs' fines, etc.	1,100,000	1,238,514
Consular, patent and other fees	2,300,000	1,803,941
Sales of public property	1,500,000	3,303,765
Miscellaneous sources	2,200,000	3,507,931
Total	$320,300,000	$268,953,492

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURES.

Civil expenses	$18,000,000	*$66,622,293
Foreign intercourse	1,325 000	1,100,000
Indians	5,700,000	8,508,715
Pensions	30,800,000	29,478,157
Military establishment	36,000,000	47,795,053
Naval establishment	22,500,000	27,792,452
Miscellaneous civil	41,500,000	"
Interest on public debt	101,575,000	107,021,908
Int. on Pacific R.R. bonds		
Sinking fund	29,200,000	
Total	$286,000,000	$289,348,578

*Mr. Richardson, following a precedent for which we can find no good reason, makes a different separation of items for the unexpired three quarters from that of the quarter already past. It will be understood that the estimate of "civil expenses" in the second column is to be compared with "civil" and "miscellaneous civil" in the first column, added together.

This is certainly a very remarkable showing. On the two great items of receipt, customs and internal revenue, there is to be a total decline of more than fifty-one million dollars from the estimate of a year ago, and the minor receipts simply balance, the gain in some items being offset in others. On the other hand the ordinary expenditures are to be three millions larger than by Mr. Boutwell's estimate, although Mr. Richardson allows nothing for the sinking fund. In scrutinizing the items we find that the combined civil expenses, which include all salaries, the cost of collecting the revenue, public buildings and lighthouses, are to be larger by seven millions than Mr. Boutwell estimated; the cost of the Indian establishment is to be larger by three millions; military larger by eleven and three-quarters millions; naval larger by five and a quarter millions; and interest larger by five and a quarter millions. In the whole list there are but two items that do not greatly exceed the estimate of a year ago, and the saving in them is to be less than a quarter of a million dollars. Such vast discrepancies, unexplained, would remind one of the palmy days of French imperial finance. There are, however, some facts that serve to show how this change from an anticipated surplus of sixty-three and a half millions (without the sinking fund expenditure) is to be changed into a real deficit of more than twenty millions. The improvement in the foreign trade balance accounts for a large part of the decline in customs. The panic, causing a difficulty in collections, has reduced the receipts from internal revenue, though it is difficult to see how it can affect unfavorably the receipts for the year. Congress was liberal last winter and made heavy appropriations to others besides its own members—but the vast increase in the charges for the army and navy cannot be accounted for by the expense entailed upon the nation by the wicked attempt to draw us into a war with Spain.

Whatever the causes may be, the situation is before us and must be faced. During the first quarter of the year there was a deficit of seven millions, and in order to make the books balance at the end of next June, there must be, either by a reduction of expenses or by an increase of revenue, a gain of twenty million dollars on Mr. Richardson's estimates in the other three-quarters. In fact, as the deficit has gone on increasing since the beginning of October, more than twenty millions is to be made up in six months. Now how is this to be done? There is one way of solving the difficulty of ways and means that must be resolutely put aside. A further issue of greenbacks would merely increase the least objectionable part of the national debt. It would not balance the books. We should simply escape a few of the consequences of financial difficulty by forcing the people to lend the Government the deficiency without interest. There are but two honorable ways to pay debt and preserve credit—by levying new taxes or by cutting down expenses. The latter is the course to be preferred, and all efforts should be exhausted in the direction of economy before turning to the other resort. But with the utmost economy a certain increase of taxation, temporary, we trust, may be inevitable. The receipts from customs are not at all likely to increase, as importations are still declining. Internal revenue may possibly be slightly larger than Mr. Richardson estimated, but not more than five million dollars additional, if so much, can be expected from this source. The other receipts are small, and can be very accurately estimated. Hence, in order to make both ends meet without new taxes, there must be a saving in expenditure of not less than fifteen millions, and possibly of twenty millions. Little, if any, reduction in the Army and Navy departments can be looked for—first, because Congress has just given an exhibition of its temper by a new appropriation to the navy, and, second, because both secretaries are known to be favorable to liberal expenditure. The secretaries will not be economical voluntarily, and Congress will not cut down their appropriations. Pensions and interest on the debt are fixed and unchangeable quantities, and the cost of foreign intercourse cannot be reduced. The only remaining items where saving is possible are the civil expenses and Indians. The aggregate estimates for the year of these two amount to seventy-five millions, but more than nineteen millions have already been spent, leaving $55,700,000 in which to make a saving of fifteen millions. It is possible, by stopping all work on public buildings, rivers and harbors, etc., by the discharge of unnecessary civil servants and similar measures, to save several million dollars, and whenever it can be done without detriment to the public service, the step should instantly be taken. But it is evident that only by the most rigid economy could expenditures be brought within our income. Upon this the people should insist most strenuously.

The "legal tender reserve" has, however, been encroached upon, and it should be at once restored. This might be done by selling interest-bearing bonds or by increasing taxation, as might be thought best. But it is to be feared that matters have gone so far that all possible economies during the rest of the year could not bring us to the close of June with a dollar of surplus. If this be so, and the question should be met squarely and the facts stated honestly, further taxation must be resorted to. Perhaps, if new levies are required, the plan of Secretary Richardson is as good as any one that can be devised, but that is not to be taken for granted. The whole field must be looked over. And inasmuch as the new taxes, if levied, are to be for a special emergency, the act imposing them ought to be limited to not exceeding twelve months. The possession of a large surplus is an invitation to extravagance altogether too strong to be resisted by the average member of Congress, with an active and all-pervading lobby to urge him on.

From the Pacific coast comes the same story of the revival of ship building. The number of tons built or building in California this year, is 5,476, against 2 last year.

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FINANCE AND TRADE.

THURSDAY EVENING, December 18, 1873.

In the history of the Bank of England, Mr. Bagehot says: "I cannot understand how the American people allow such government interference with the trade of banking." In truth, the laws of trade and not the will of the Secretary of the Treasury, should govern us; but as long as the banks have no power to alter the amount of their circulating medium, the only way to get any assistance for the demands of trade is through the action of the Secretary of the Treasury.

A New York bank President has recently made a statement before the Clearing House Association, strongly favoring a further issue of currency, which is as strong an argument in favor of inflation as we have seen. He states that the country is richer to-day than it ever was before, but that the volume of the currency is too small for practical uses. Some may not feel this, but the following statement will explain. The present and past circulation may be thus stated:

Present—Legal tenders and bank notes, say	$700,000,000
Less bank reserve, locked up, say	150,000,000
Leaves present circulation	$550,000,000
Former circulation — Bank notes	$340,000,000
Add specie in circulation	150,000,000
	490,000,000

Excess of present over that of 1861.....$160,000,000

In other words the circulation twelve years ago was at least three hundred and ninety millions; it is now shown to be five hundred and fifty millions only. The writer then says:

"Is there a man outside of the lunatic asylum who doesn't know that the volume of business has more than doubled, while the volume of currency has been added to only one-third? Can any one, on reflection, doubt that within the last twelve years the business and population of this country have increased in a ratio much larger than the circulating medium? What has happened in these twelve years, from 1861 to 1873? The Pacific Railroad has been built; the emigration, foreign and domestic, over 3,000 miles of country, has been unprecedented. Business has increased as never before in an equal period. Prices have advanced at least fifty per cent. for all commodities bought and sold. And yet the volume of currency has for the last eight years remained fixed. Of course our currency has been practically reduced by increasing the demand and not the supply."

Granting the many evils of an inflated irredeemable currency, the question arises if contraction will not produce greater evils, and more disaster than would result from an increase of Government money in proportion to the increase of the business of the country.

We gave in our telegraphic columns a few days ago, a short account of the decision of the United States Supreme Court in regard to the power of a State to tax a railroad passing through its territory, although such road is operated under a national charter. We now have a more full account of the case.

Union Pacific Railroad vs. Peniston, Treasurer of Lincoln county, Nebraska; appeal from the circuit Court for Nebraska. The question in this case was whether the Pacific Railroad Company is such an instrumentality of the Government as exempts it from State taxation under the Federal Constitution.

In delivering the opinion of the court, Mr. Justice Strong says: The tax in question is too remote in its effects upon the efficient exercise of the Federal power to be for that reason inhibited by the Constitution. To hold otherwise would be to deny to the States all power to tax persons or property; for every tax levied by a State withdraws from the reach of Federal taxation a portion of the property from which it is taken, and to that extent diminishes the subject upon which Federal taxes may be laid. Admitting fully that the company is an agent of the general Government, both military and postal, no constitutional implications prohibit a State tax upon the property of an agent of the Government merely because it is the property of such an agent. United State mails, troops and munitions of war are carried upon almost every railroad. Telegraph lines are employed to the national advantage; and steamboats, horses, stage coaches, wagons, foundries, ship yards and multitudes of manufacturing establishments. These are the property of natural persons or corporations who are instruments or agents of the general Government. Were they exempt as here claimed, it is manifest that the State governments would be paralyzed. The decree below is affirmed.

Mr. Justice Bradley, dissenting, says that if the law-bed may be taxed, it may be seized and sold for non-payment of taxes, separated by county or State lines, and thus the whole purpose of Congress in creating the corporation and establishing the line may be subverted. In his judgment, the tax was unconstitutional. Mr. Justice Field concurred with Mr. Justice Bradley. Mr. Justice Hunt dissented from the opinion of the court, but wrote no opinion.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street:

December 18, 1873.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	2:30 P.M.	3:30 P.M.
Gold	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾	111¾
Canton	....	....	....	....	....	....
Western Union Teleg'h	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾
Quicksilver	....	....	....	....	....	....
Pacific Mail	38¾	38¾	38¾	38¾	38¾	38¾
Adams Express	....	91	....	....	....	....
Wells-Fargo Express	....	71	71	....	....	....
American Express	....	57	56	....	....	....
United States Express	....	....	....	....	....	....
New York Central	95¾	96¾	95¾	95¾	....	95¾
Erie	....	44¾	44¾	44¾	44¾	44¾
Michigan Central	....	....	....	....	....	....
Michigan Southern	76¾	76¾	76¾	76¾	76¾	76¾
Illinois Central	....	100	....	100	....	....
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	....	94¾	....	94¾	....	94¾
Chicago & Northwestern	....	85¾	85¾	85	....	85¾
Do preferred	....	89¾	....	89¾	....	89¾
Rock Island	98¾	98¾	....	97¾	....	97¾
St. Paul	....	40¼	40¾	40¼	40¾	40¼
Do preferred	....	63	63¾	63¾	....	63¾
Wabash	34½	34¾	....	34¾	....	34½
Do preferred	....	75	....	75	....	....
Fort Wayne	....	100	....	100	....	....
Ohio and Mississippi	30¾	30¾	....	30¾	30¾	30¾
Union Pacific	30¾	30¾	....	30¾	30¾	30¾
Chicago and Alton	....	102¾	....	102	....	....
Boston, Hartf'd and Erie	....	3¾	....	3¾	....	....
Harlem	....	124	....	123¾	....	....

—The following are the quotations for Government and State bonds received by wire from New York to-day:

GOVERNMENTS.	Morn.	Noon.	Even'g.
1881, coupons	120¾	120	119¾
5-20s, 1862	115¾	115¼	114¾
5-20s, 1864	116¼	116¼	115¾
5-20s, 1865	116¾	116	115¾
5-20s, new	118¼	118¾	118
5-20s, 1867	119¼	119¼	118¾
5-20s, 1868	119	118¾	118¾
10-40s	113¼	113	111
10-40s, coupons	113¾	113¾	113¼
Currency 6s	113¾	113¾	114¾
New 5s	113¾	113	113
STATE BONDS.			
Tennessees	—	81	81
Tennessees, new	—	81	81¼
South Carolinas, July	—	10¾	10¾
Missouri 6s	—	93	93

—Robinson Bros., bankers, Fourth avenue, furnish the following report of active stocks at the Philadelphia Board:

Penns. R. R.	45¾
Penns. Scrip	93
Reading	55¾
United Co's N. J.	116
Oil Creek	15¾
Lehigh Valley	58¾
A. V. R. R. 7-30s	95¾
Central Trans.	40¾

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, December 18, 1873.

The following are the entire receipts of the leading articles for this market, by river and rail, for the twenty-four hours ending to-day:

Flour, bbls	509	Corn, sacks	1,085
Apples, bbls	358	Barley, sacks	510
Butter, pkgs	28	Rye, sacks	170
Potatoes, bush	50	Oats, sacks	346
Wheat, sacks	516		

The market ruled to-day moderately active, and values continued strong. In the flour and grain market a firm feeling is manifest, and prices seem to be tending upwards. The grocery market is somewhat excited, owing to the excitement in the Eastern controlling markets. As will be seen, the receipts are not up to the average for the season, but appear to be in keeping with the requirements of the trade.

The following will indicate the state of the market in detail, together with the latest quotations, based upon actual sales:

APPLES—The receipts are liberal and the market is fairly active. The demand has increased owing to the confined favorable weather. Sales were made at $1 50@2 per bbl; common to good at $2 50 @3 50 for prime to choice.

APPLE BUTTER.—There is a fair seasonable demand, but quotations are unchanged. Sales at 60@ 70c per gallon.

ASHES—The market continues quiet, with but little doing. The nominal rates are: Soda Ash, common, 3¾@4c; Red-ed. 5c; Prussic, 9c; Pearl, 10c; Amerock, 5c; Black Lead, 5c.

ALES.—The market is firm, with a fair demand. The card prices are as follows: X $ ¥ obl; XX, $9; India ale $10 ¥ bbl; Bass' English ale, $11; Allsopp's ale of 22 gals, $22 75@2 24; bots, 41 gals, $12 25@64 bots, 63 gals, $22 50@23; 41 gals, $12 25; Wm. Youngers' India pale ale in cases of 5 doz bottles, $3 ¥ doz, Robt. Younges of sparkling ale $3 ¥ doz; Guinness stouts, bottled by E. & J. Burke, $3 ¥ doz; Cantrell & Cochrane's ginger ale $2 25 ¥ doz; Caswells, Hazard & Co's ginger ale $1 50 ¥ doz.

BEANS.—The demand is limited and the market is dull. Sales at $2@2 25 for fair to choice.

BORAX.—Refined 25c ¥ lb.

BANNER BAKING POWDER.—Market steady; sales per doz ¼ lb cans, $1 60; ½ lb do $3 00; 1 lb do $5 50; 5 lb cans, $27 00 per dozen.

BROOM CORN.—Market quiet with sales red and red topped 5¾@6¾c; fair to good green 7¾@8¾c. Hurl 9¾@10c per lb.

BUTTER.—The supply continues meagre, notwithstanding the fact that there is brisk demand for the better grades. Sales at 28@31c ¥ lb for choice roll. There is no fixed price for the lower grades.

BEANS.—The market is dull at $1 75@2 25 for choice Navy.

BAGGING—Penn mill, two bushel bags, 35c; two-and-one-half bushel, 42c; three bushel, 50c.

BUCKWHEAT—Selling at from 4c to 4¾c ¥ lb.

BRESWAX—17c to 30c ¥ lb.

BROOMS—No 2, $2 ¥ doz; No 3, $2 50 ¥ doz; No 4, $3 ¥ doz; No 5, $3 50 ¥ doz; parlor brooms, $4 ¥ doz; toy brooms and whisps, $1 50@2. In a jobbing way, from store, 25 to 50c ¥ doz additional.

BACON AND PROVISIONS.—The trade in store is liberal, and the trade is moderately active, and prices, although very low, are generally and unchanged. Below are the current rates: Extra sugar-cured hams 12½c; shoulders, extra sugar cured, 9½c; breakfast bacon, sugar cured, 11¾c; dried beef, extra sugar cured, 15¾c; bacon shoulders, 8¾c; rib sides, 9c; clear rib sides, 9¼c; clear sides 10c; mess pork $17 00 per bbl; lard, prime leaf in tierces, 9¼c per lb; prime leaf in half bbls, 10c; prime leaf in buckets, 10¼c; refined for summer use in tierces, 9¾c; do in half bbls, 10c; do in buckets, 10½c; refined in 3 lb cadies, 11¼c; do in 5 lb cadies, 11¾c; do in 3 lb pails, 13c; in 6 lb pails, 12¾c; ham sausage, 10c.

CANNON OIL—The market is quiet and prices are firm. Sales at the works free on cars 11@11½c per gallon, and the usual advance for small lots.

CIDER—In good supply with sales at $6@9 per bbl.

CRANBERRIES—The current rates are $10 to $13 per bbl; $3 50 to $4 per box.

CONCENTRATED LYE—Dealers report sales at $7 50 @8 per case of four dozen packages.

CORN MEAL—The supply continues to meet the demands of the market, with sales at $30 ¥ ton for unbolted meal, and in a small way at $1 60 ¥ bush, from store.

CRACKERS—Trade continues satisfactory. Prices for the following grades remain firm but unchanged. We quote: Lemon biscuit 11¾c; ginger snaps 12½c; oyster crackers 5c; soda crackers 8c; sugar crackers 9¾c; butter crackers 9c; water do 7¾c ¥ lb.

CHEESE—We have nothing new to report in regard to this article. Prices were as follows: Roesen's Phœnix $2 @2 25; Louisville $2 25@2 50; Rosedale $5 00@5 50; white lime $2 00; calcined plaster $4 50; land plaster $3 00@3 50.

CHEESE—Good Ohio Dairy 12½@13c; prime Ohio Factory, September make, 14¾@15c to the trade, and 15@15½c in a jobbing way; Young America 15c; Nutmeg 17c; prime to choice Ohio Sweitzer 16 @18c.

DRESSED HOGS—Sales at 5¾@6c.

EGGS—The receipts are light and the market brisk for strictly fresh, which are selling at 28@30c ¥ doz, and pickled, which are in heavy receipt, ranging at and from 18 to 25c per doz.

FISH—Prices remain unchanged. We quote: No. 1 extra mess mackerel, $16; No. 1 mess do, $13; extra No. 1 shore mackerel, $28; No. 1 shore mackerel, $22; extra No. 1 bay mackerel, $19; No. 1 bay mackerel, $17; extra No. 2 shore mackerel, $14; No. 2 bay mackerel, $14 large No. 3 mackerel, $12 50; No. 3 mackerel, $10; split Labrador herring, $5 to $7; white fish, $1 50@5 00; lake trout, $7 00@8; 50; large Georges codfish $7@7 50 ¥ 100; medium Georges codfish, $5 50 @6 ¥ 100; red herring, scale 50c ¥ box; No. 1 25c ¥ box.

FEATHERS—There is little or nothing doing and can be quoted at 55@56c ¥ lb; No. 2 C, 48@73c as to quality and quantity.

FLOUR—There is a good demand from the home market, but very little being for speculation. Prices are very firm, in sympathy with grain, and another advance is reported on spring wheat flour. Below are the store rates:

State amber wheat	$8 25@8 50
State red wheat	7 75@8 00
Fancy St. Louis	9 25@9 50
Fancy Kentucky white wheat	8 50
Good Ohio red wheat	8 00
Wisconsin Spring wheats	7 25
Minnesota Spring wheats	7 75
Rye flour	5 25

GRAIN—The market for wheat, corn and oats continues very active, and prices are very firm but no higher, owing to the fair receipts. The millers are buying all the wheat they can get at quotations, thinking, no doubt, that the foreign demand will continue, and keep up prices. Below are the prices current:

Wheat—Red Winter at $1 50@1 55; Amber $1 60; and White at $1 60.

Oats—Are in more liberal supply; we quote: Mixed at 47c; White at 50c, as per quality.

Corn—Sales of old shelled at 68@70c, an advance; new ear sold at 60c; old wound bring 65@70c; the market is here.

Rye—Nominal at 80@85c.

HAY—In the absence of sales, we omit figures.

GAME—The market continues dull at the following rates:

Deer—Undressed, 10c ¥ lb. Long Saddles, 14 @15c; Hams 18@19c.

Quail—$2 00 per dozen.

Pheasants—$4 00 per dozen.

Rabbits—$2 50 per dozen.

Squirrels—$1 00 per dozen.

Wild Turkeys—$2 00@2 50 each.

GROCERIES—The market continues to show much improvement, and the increase in the business noted yesterday still continues. Coffees are still very firm and sugars are tending still higher. Teas seem to sympathize with coffees, and are quoted at fully 50 ¥ lb higher, with large sales. Sugars are weak, and no prospect of an advance this week. Should Congress impose the duty recommended to them by the Secretary of the Treasury on tea and coffee, we will see very high prices for a year to come. Spices firm and unchanged. Coffees —The current rates are: green Rio coffee, choice, 26c; strictly prime 29c; prime 28¾c; good 28c; fair 26¾@27c; green Java 36@37c; roasted do in papers, 24c; in bulk 33¾c; Java in papers, 40c.

Sugars—Cuba clarified, in pkgs, 9¾c; package 32c; do loose 32½c; choice green do 29@29¾c; prime green do 28¾@28¾c; good green coffee 27@27½c.

Teas—Young Hyson 50@81 10 ¥ lb; Gunpowder 50c@$1 25; Imperial 50c@$1 00 ¥ lb; Japan 55c@$1 00 ¥ lb; Oolong 25c@50c ¥ lb; fancy $1 00 ¥ lb; Souchong 25c@50c ¥ lb.

Sugar—Standard Ex C 10½c; Standard B 10¼c; standard A 10¾c; standard hards 11¾c.

Molasses—Choice New Orleans 75c; prime 68@ 70c.

Syrups—Extra White Drips 70c; Sugar Drips, 60c; Amer 60@65c; lower grades 53@60c, as to quality.

Rice—Choice Caroline 8¾c; Patna 8c; Rangoon 7¾c.

HOMINY—The market has undergone no change; we are reported sales at $4 50@5 00 per bbl.

ONIONS—Are in good supply with sales in a regular way $4 00@5 00 per bbl.

PICKLES—Medium, bbls, $10; medium half bbls, $6; large half bbls Boston mixed, $8 00; plain, plain or mixed, per dozen, $1 50; quarts, plain or mixed, $2 50; half gallons, plain, $ 75; gallons, plain, $5 50; Hexagon mixed, pints, $ 80; English chow chow, quarts, $4 50; English chow chow, quarts, $6 00; English mixed pickles, pints, $3 00; English mixed pickles, quarts, $6 00; English cauliflower, pints, $3 00; English cauliflower, quarts, $6 00; English picalili, pints, $3 75; English picalili, quarts, $6 00; English white onions, pints, $4 50; English white onions, quarts, $7 50; English gherkins, pints, $3 75; English gherkins, quarts, $6 00; English Mofussil, pickles, pints, $4 50.

POTATOES—The receipts have fallen off, but the market is well stocked, and price are fully sustained. Regular sales are made at $1 15@1 25 ¥ bushel for the prime article and mixed at 90@95 ¥ bush.

POULTRY—The market is becoming more active, but prices are no higher. Sales chickens, dressed, at 10@12c, and turkeys at 14@15c ¥ lb.

WHISKEY—Highwines are higher, with sales at $1 09@1 05 per gallon.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE DAILY COMMERCIAL, FRIDAY, December 19, 1873.

REMARKS—The crude market is evidently gaining strength steadily. Holders are asking a further advance in the oil regions. The market was also firm here, with an upward tendency. Below will be found all the information we could learn in regard to sales and prices.

CRUDE.

No sales reported here. The following were reported at

PARKER'S.

5,000 bbls Union pipe	95c
2,500 bbls United pipe	$1 05

For prices at other points see dispatches.

REFINED.

The market was firmer. Holders were asking an advance of 3¼c ¥ gallon at the works, viz: 11all¾c; by the car load, free on cars.

Philadelphia—Market quiet; January, first half, 12¼c; last, 13¾@13½c; February, first half, 13¼c; last, 13¾c; March, first half, 13¾@13¾c; last, 13¾c; April, first half, 14c; last, 14¼c.

New York—December 13¾@14c; market quiet.

OIL BARRELS

In fair supply, with sales at $1 85; country $1 75.

[By Western Union Telegraph Line.]

TITUSVILLE, December 18.—The "Herald" says: The markets are firmer at every point in this region, with a slight tendency to an advance. On upper load the market closed firm at $1 15al 17½. The market at Oil City is a shade firmer and closed at $1 10. At Parker's Landing the market advanced to 95c for United, and $1 05 for Union pipe. The cause of the advance was a brisk demand for shipment. The home refined market was 5½c in bulk, and 10½c in barrels. Sales:

1,000 bbls, upper road, spot.....$1 12½
1,000 bbls, upper road, spot.....1 15
1,000 bbls, upper road, spot.....1 17½
2,000 bbls, Oil City, spot.....1 10
3,500 bbls, Parkers, Union pipe.....1 05
5,000 bbls, Parkers, United pipe.....95

PHILADELPHIA, December 18.—Market quiet: S. W. 13¾c; crude 4¾c; cases 18¾c; sales none. Futures—January 13¾@13¾c; February 13¾@13¾c; March 14a14¼c; April 14¾a14¾c.

PARKER'S, December 18.—Market quiet at 90c@$1 05.

ROUSEVILLE, December 18.—Market firm at 95c.

TITUSVILLE, December 18.—Market quiet; spot, $1 12½a1 15.

PETROLEUM CENTRE, December 18.—Market quiet; quoted at 95c; sales at spot.

OIL CITY, December 18.—Market quiet and nominally $1 05.

NEW YORK, December 18, closing 17.—Held trite firmer; trade quiet; crude in bulk, 5¾c; do in shipping order 10¾c; refined 13¾a14c, this and next month; cases quiet at 19@20c. Philadelphia market quiet at 13¾a13¾c for refined.

[By Atlantic and Pac fic Telegraph Line.]

OIL CITY, December 18.—Market weak; quotations $1 00 to $1 05.

PHILADELPHIA, December 18.—Market quiet and nothing doing; no demand; first half January 13¾c; last half 13¾@13¾c; first half February 13¾c; last half 13¾c; first half March 13¾@13¾c; last half 13¾c; first half April, 14c; last half 14¼c.

NEW YORK, December 18.—Crude 5¾a5¾c; refined 13¾a14c. Market quiet.

PARKERS, December 18.—Market unsettled; prices ranging from 85c to $1 05.

TIDIOUTE, December 18.—Market quiet at 90c for round lots on bards cars here.

TITUSVILLE, December 18.—Market firm at $1 15 at 20.

Crude Oil Received by A. V. R. R.

Shipper.	Consignee.	Bbls.
Jos Bushnell	Standard O W	700
B S Duncan	Standard O W	2,400
Owner	Fisher Bros	471
Lockhart & Frew	Brilliant O W	1,545
Fisher Bros	American O W	10

Crude Oil Received by Rail and River.

	Bbls.		Bbls.
Standard O W	1,000	Brilliant O W	1,545
Fisher Bros	471	American O W	10
Total			3,101

IRON MARKET.

NEW YORK.

December 17.—Scotch pig is without movement of note; the demand is light, and confined to parcels to meet the present wants of the trade, but our quotations are well supported, the stock being light. The present upward movement in Scotch iron, noted above those of American, has helped to turn the attention of the trade to the latter, the market for which may be called decidedly firmer, while most parties concede that the lowest prices have been seen likely for some time to come. There is a growing indisposition to offer stocks, and we understand that the Allentown and Carson Companies are entirely out of the market at present prices. Other companies are not offering, while few or no contracts are being made for the future. The Poughkeepsie companies have now no stock on hand. There has been considerable movement in forge iron, comprising 2,000 tons No. 1 and 2 Hudson, 1,000 do Nos. 1 and 2 Poughkeepsie, 200 do No. 1 Glendon, 400 do No. 1 Lehigh, all on private terms; several hundred tons No. 1 Carbon and Allentown at $35; and 1,000 tons Lehigh brands reported for next year's delivery at $25. No 1 foundry iron is $36@38; No. 2, $32@33, and Gray Forge, $26@30, with an upward tendency. New rails are without quality. Old rails are in fair inquiry: some 600@700 tons, not before reported, were sold on private terms. Scrap is quiet, and may be quoted nominally $28@40 from yard. Manufactured from store continues nominally steady at previous quotations, while a large business is being done by manufacturers. We are notified by circular of Wemore & Co., agents in this city for Burden's Iron, of the following reductions, as compared with their circular of 1st September last:

"BURDEN'S BEST."	Dec. 15.	Sept. 1.
Ordinary sizes, round and square, ¾ to 2 inch	$120 00@	$130 00@
Flats, 1¼x¾ to 4½x¾ inch	120 00@	130 00@
Horse shoes	115 00@	130 00@
"U. S. A." Ordinary sizes, as above	80 00@	97 50@
Extra sizes	85 00@110 00	102 50@127 50
Flats, 1¼x¾ to 4½x¾ inch	85 00@100 00	102 50@117 50
Ovals	97 50@112 50	115 00@130 00
Half ovals, ¾ and over to ¾ and 9-16 inch	102 50@117 50	120 00@135 00
Half rounds, same sizes	97 50@112 50	115 00@130 00

—Shipping List.

The Future of the Sugar Market.

Since the Cuban question has assumed a peaceful aspect, the market has been extremely dull, and receivers appear to be looking forward to even lower prices than those ruling at present. The market has been waiting on the question, and a similar view is held in Europe, as shown by the translation appended to our regular reports. At the present moment refiners take perhaps too gloomy a view of the market, as the continued increase in the consumption is one of the signs of the times, although recently the financial stringency undoubtedly has had a great effect upon it. This consumption has been more marked in England, where during four months this year 1,000 tons more than for last less than 11,000 tons more than for a similar period previously were consumed. The abolition of the taxes on tea conjointly and especially to that on sugar, while taxes he now reimposed on tea and coffee in this country it may be expected to affect the sugar market to some extent. The partial deficiency of the beet root supply may cause a rise in Europe ere long, although the enlightenment of the agricultural classes, who are some stocks, bought on speculation, on the market. The stock on hand there is reported as diminishing. There are other causes at work, however, which will tend, if not to produce lower prices, at least to prevent any rise. The cultivation of the beet root is gradually extending over Europe, new refineries are springing up in France, and our own agriculturists are giving more attention to the subject, especially in California, where the experiments have been satisfactory. Of the total sugar produce of the world, last year amounting to 3,000,000 tons, not less than 1,650,000 tons were made from the beet, while in 1867-68 the entire crop was only 377,000 tons. The superior yield of the beet has naturally increased the cane industry in Louisiana, and planters this year have been anything but satisfied with results. A new process, which has been tried with great success in East Indies, is about to be introduced, which it is maintained will give 8 lbs of sugar from the beet to 1 from cane, instead of 2½ lbs. with the present process. This would bring up the crop of last year to 325,857 hhds. in-stead of 168,326 hhds.

Refiners think it difficult to forecast the future of the market at present. The French refiners are trying to place the crystallized on the English market, and the French refiner, while not to be further augmented, operate greatly in their favor. With the general opinion in Europe that higher prices will prevail, there can be little doubt that the market here will soon recover from its present depression. The advices from Louisiana state that the quality of the crop there is excellent, but that the yield is not good.—*N. Y. Bulletin.*

Buffalo Live Stock Market.

BUFFALO, December 18.—Cattle—Receipts, 300 head. Market dull and weak at yesterday's prices.

Sheep and Lambs—Receipts, 100 head. Market moderately active at ¼c decline on all grades in that week's closing prices; range, Michigan and Ohio sheep at $4 37½a5 25.

Hogs—Receipts 5,000 head. Market dull at $5 00a 5 25.

Memphis Market.

MEMPHIS, December 18.—Cotton heavy at 12¾a 12¾c. Flour quiet and unchanged. Corn dull at 72c. Oats scarce and firm at 55c. Bran dull and lower at 85c. Hay quiet and unchanged. Provisions dull and nominal; No 2, 1, 12c.

PITTSBURGH LIVE STOCK MARKET—WEEKLY REVIEW.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, December 18, 1873.

RECEIPTS.

	Cattle. No. head.	Hogs. No. head.	Sheep. No. head.	Horses. No. head.	Mules. No. head.
Thursday, Dec. 11	1,080	2,775	400	15	....
Friday, Dec. 12	1,124	1,200	300	10	....
Saturday, Dec. 13	630	1,500	....	....	....
Sunday, Dec. 14	1,005	4,660	2,005	....	....
Monday, Dec. 15	1,042	3,000	3,000	30	34
Tuesday, Dec. 16	1,820	5,400	3,800	30	34
Wednesday, Dec. 17	Till noon nothing in yd master's book.				
Total	7,301	17,160	9,505	75	34
Last week	5,744	22,000	8,815	99	34

SHIPMENTS.

	Cattle. No. head.	Hogs. No. head.	Sheep. No. head.	Horses. No. head.	Mules. No. hd.
Thursday, Dec. 11	1,872	4,100	400	15	168
Friday, Dec. 12	1,800	4,100	200	....	....
Saturday, Dec. 13	625	1,250	....	15	....
Monday, Dec. 15	1,411	5,213	2,400	72	....
Tuesday, Dec. 16	1,596	7,000	3,000	30	....
Wednesday, 17	840	1,300	1,600	30	....
Total	6,660	20,715	5,000	60	68
Last week	6,126	23,000	8,425	30	34

Cattle.

The receipts of cattle this week so far have been fair. The quality of the stock is a mixture of all grades and kinds, from fancy Christmas cattle down to the most common scalawags. It is said that the proportion of good stock last week was a great deal scarcer than for some time past. Among the lots are some extra cattle which are held by owners as high as eight and eight and one-half cents, but seem to be dull sale, as buyers do not care to take hold of them at the prices asked. At Allegheny on Monday, Holmes, Lafferty & Co. sold six fancy steers, as good as any person would want, and all they brought was $7 50. Jacob Needy also sold an extra heifer, weighing 1,815 lbs, at $7 50 per 100. Trade above cattle were reported here for Christmas and owners expected over 8c for them. Judging from the talk of butchers, we think that on account of hard times and scarcity of money, not so many fancy cattle will be handled by them, or, if they do, it will be at low figures, and shippers who have this kind of stock will have to hold over or make up their minds for low prices. The attendance of buyers this week is good, but the majority of them are from Philadelphia, and seem to have set their heads together to force prices down. As usual they complain about the unsatisfactory state of their market and their inability to pay the prices asked here for cattle and have a margin left for time money and trouble. The prospect is that holders will have to make a concession in order to have an active market and close out consignments. At this writing some cattle have been sold at prices ¼c below last week's rates. Following are about the prices ruling:

Extra 1,400 to 1,500 lbs steers, fine and smooth.....$ 6 25
Extra 1,300 lbs.....5 75 to 6 00
Prime 1,200 lbs.....5 25 to 5 50
Prime 1,100 lbs.....4 50 to 5 00
Fair 1,000 lbs.....3 90 to 4 50
Common.....3 50 to 3 75

Hogs.

The receipts of hogs this week were fair but some lighter than last week by about 2,000 head. The attendance of buyers is good, a fair number of country dealers being in the market. Trade has ruled active since our last report until the present. At the time of closing our last report we noted that the market was active and firm, with the inclination of prices upward. Then $5.15 was the highest figure ruling for extra Philadelphia. Since that time the market has advanced some each day till on Tuesday $5 75 was paid for one load of prime hogs, the figure was considered a shade above the market. To-day while the receipts are not heavy, western advices are unfavorable, and the inclination of prices down being also more than on Tuesday. Following are the figures the different grades are selling at:

Extra Philadelphia $5 50; prime do $5 40 to 5 45; do Yorkers, $5 25; fair do $5 15 to 5 30; common $5 00.

Sheep.

The receipts of sheep for the week ending to-day have been light. The quality of the stock generally good, a fair proportion of fancy stock being on sale. One bunch of extra sold at 8c, and another bunch of fifty head by Holmes, Lafferty & Co. at 7c. The attendance of buyers is good, and all the best grades sell well; common a little slow. The market is firm and steady, showing no signs of lower prices. Following are the rates current:

Extra, 100 lbs fine wool.....$5 25
Extra, 95 lbs fine wool.....5 00
Prime 90 lbs.....4 75a4 85
Fair 85 lbs.....4 50a4 65

Cattle.

HOLMES, LAFFERTY & CO. SOLD.

No.	Weight.	Price.	No.	Weight.	Price.
10	10,260	$6 00	1	1,650	$5 00
14	15,340	6 80	4	4,970	5 00
16	12,680	6 00	2	3,500	5 50
20	22,810	5 25	15	14,820	4 50
4	6,000	6 00	19	19,140	4 50
3	3,760	5 50	5	6,000	5 50
1	1,260	5 50	1	1,300	3 00
16	16,950	4 75			

HEDGES, HUFF & CO. SOLD.

20	18,340	$4 00	3	3,410	$4 75
14	21,720	6 00	2	1,530	3 50
12	11,050	7 25	1	1,250	2 50
20	27,300	4 75	1	12,480	3 50
5	5,450	3 80	1	1,090	4 50
18	19,890	4 62½	1	1,370	2 75
49	60,150	5 50	52	59,550	4 25
16	21,770	5 70	1	1,480	4 00
1	1,040	4 00	1	40,880	4 62
3	3,700	4 00	38	9,540	5 30

HAZLEWOOD, BLACKSTOCK & NEWTON SOLD

216	18 000	$4 50	21	19,550	$4 12
39	42,720	4 12	1		

Hogs.

HOLMES, LAFFERTY & CO. SOLD

No.	Weight.	Price.	No.	Weight.	Price.
28	1,360	$4 65	61	18,060	$5 10
41	10,940	5 00	55	13,280	4 60
4	4,340	4 80	20	3,160	4 90
26	6,980	5 15	54	14,370	4 65
37	6,310	4 70	10	2,250	4 70
69	8,050	5 62	21	5,810	5 15
12	3,640	4 50	60	17,190	5 15
94	24,990	5 00	25	6,320	5 00
267	68,890	5 30	126	22,050	5 00
23	3,790	5 30	15	4,330	4 60
24	6,490	5 15	5	1,640	5 00
4	640	5 00	20	3,330	4 75
7	2,260	4 60	67	18,280	4 70
7	2,650	4 60	67	13,900	5 00
60	15,320	5 25	34	7,450	4 70
37	9,880	4 75	6	2,110	4 60
7	1,630	5 10	50	12,580	5 20
30	7,910	4 85	25	6,440	4 75
61	17,120	5 10	29	6,650	5 15
54	12,880	4 60	46	13,240	5 50
10	2,250	4 70	42	25,110	5 30
66	13,250	5 65	48	13,580	5 00
86	22,060	5 30	415	68,440	4 75
72	15,100	4 87	120	32,850	4 75
83	17,880	4 70	45	8,270	4 70
29	14,570	5 25	5	1,200	5 00
38	8,730	5 25	25	5,560	4 75
42	11,040	5 30	55	11,330	4 85
96	16,930	5 00	95	9,010	4 10
9	19 6 0	5 30	30	4,870	5 00
109	19,490	5 15	20	3,980	5 00
69	20,580	5 30	177	21,650	4 95
26	6,480	5 30	34	9,180	5 00
26	7,820	5 30	45	8,800	5 00
97	19,640	5 00	30

The Missing Water Bonds.

THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUED.

The Commissioners Again Examined

THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD.

Their Peculiarity Noticed

Ross and the Board Negligent.

MORE PROFITABLE LESSONS FOR OFFICIALS.

Lengthy but Interesting Testimony

The Finance Committee continued their investigation yesterday into the affairs of the Water Commission, the examination being entirely on the minutes of the Boards as kept by Secretary Ross. The Commissioners were questioned as to their attention to their business, and it resulted but little to their credit. Following is the testimony in full:

Mr. Hill Bargain was duly sworn and testified as follows:

Q. By Mr. Phillips—You are a member of the Water Commission? A. I am, sir.

Q. By Mr. Negley—Were the Water Commission sworn to perform their duty when they entered upon the duties of their office? A. That was my recollection.

Mr. Negley—I am going to ask some questions in relation to the minutes. I will cite some of the minutes and ask the questions you can refer to them. [Minutes of the Water Commission handed to the witness.]

Q. By Mr. Negley—On page 13, March 5th, 1872, on motion the city controller was authorized to issue certificate for warrant to D. W. C. Carroll for $1,000 to be used by him as a contingent fund to pay incidental expenses incurred from time to time. What was that used for and why did you [illegible] for the money just as needed? I can't speak from a distinct recollection as to this particular resolution. All I can say is that if I recollect aright the object in having $1,000 placed in Mr. Carroll's hands, was that there might be little expenses occurring from time to time for the payment of which it was hardly worth while to go through the form of having a warrant drawn. We had confidence in Mr. Carroll, and I think we sent for Mr. Carroll to come to the office and he drew a check for $1,000 to be used by him as a contingent fund to pay incidental expenses incurred from time to time. What was that used for and why did you [illegible] for the money just as needed? I can't speak from a distinct recollection as to this particular resolution. All I can say is that if I recollect aright the object in having $1,000 placed in Mr. Carroll's hands, was that there might be little expenses occurring from time to time for the payment of which it was hardly worth while to go through the form of having a warrant drawn. We had confidence in Mr. Carroll, and I think he